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ABSTRACT

Egypt is a culture which combines the traditional with the modern. This text aims to foster an appreciation of Egypt as a changing culture facing the challenges of development. Topics included are: (1) Village Life; (2) Urban Life; (3) Nile; (4) Government; (5) Agriculture; (6) Economy; (7) Health/Games; (8) Education; (9) Religion; (10) People/Beliefs; (11) Dress; (12) Food; (13) Literature; (14) Language; and (15) Dictionary. Contents are: (1) Teacher Overview; (2) Fact Sheet; (3) Presentations and Student Activities; (4) Additional Resources/Bibliography; (5) Set of Flashcards; and (6) Slide-Tape Script. (BZ)

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TEACHER OVERVIEW:

The purpose of this text is to foster among students an appreciation of Egypt as a changing culture, combining tradition with modernization and the benefits and challenges these pose for a developing Middle Eastern country in the 1980's.

The package is designed in one to two page presentations so that each section can be reproduced for the entire class or can be thermofaxed and projected on an overhead. Each individual presentation includes a choice of questions, research projects, suggestions and student activities. Some development issues are raised by the use of 'Stop and Think'.

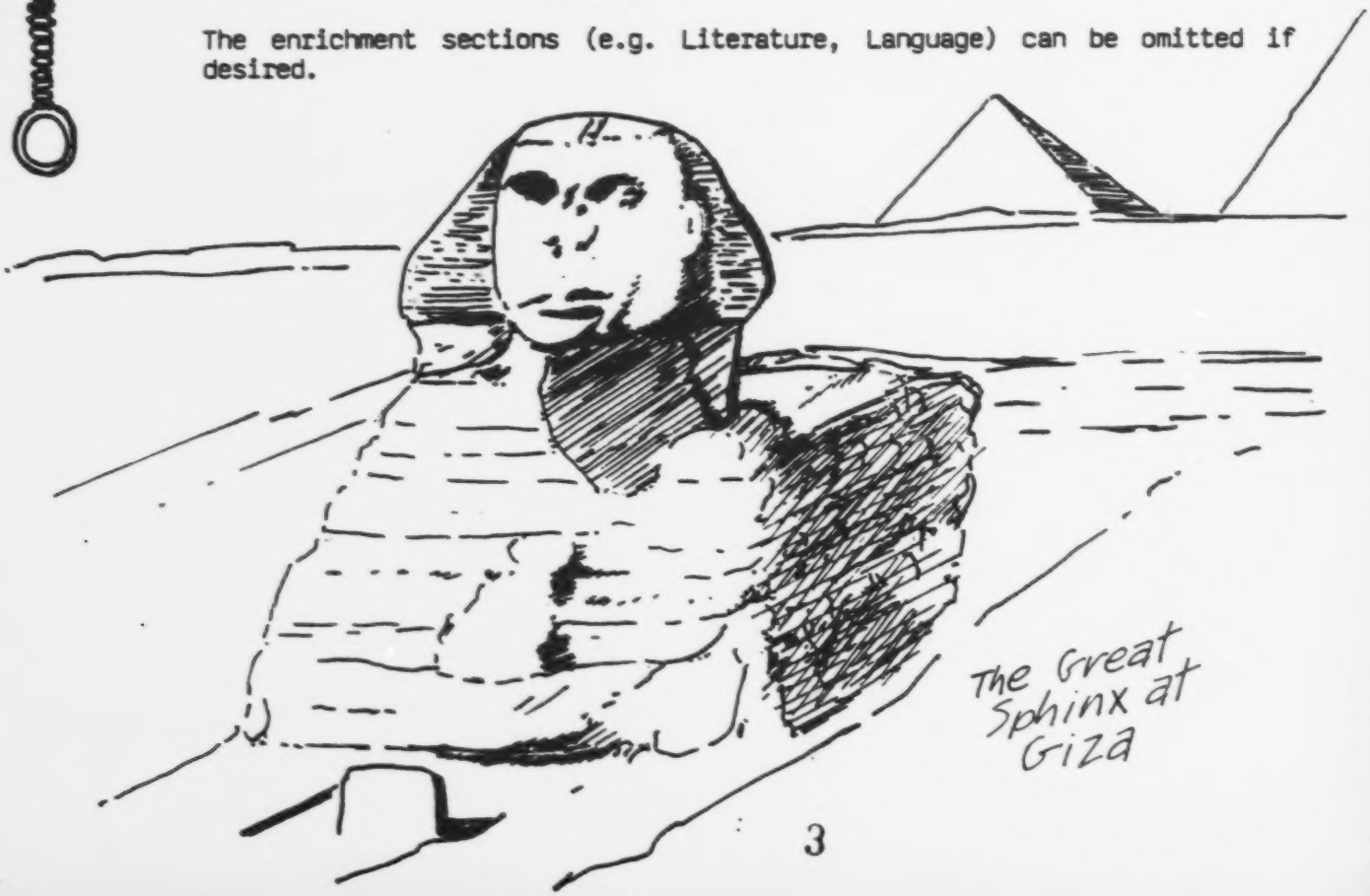
The text also includes:

A Slide Tape: Each slide is identified in the tape script. Although it is intended that these slides be shown after the completion of the text proper, they may be shown without the tape (by identifying each slide orally) as an introduction to the material, and later shown with the tape.

A Music Tape: This tape is optional. It includes many selections of folkloric music which is symphonic in nature. It is suggested that this could be used as background for activities such as 'Food'.

A Set of Flashcards: These can be reproduced on a photocopier and can be placed on the classroom wall, given to students to colour, or used as flashcards for testing and teaching.

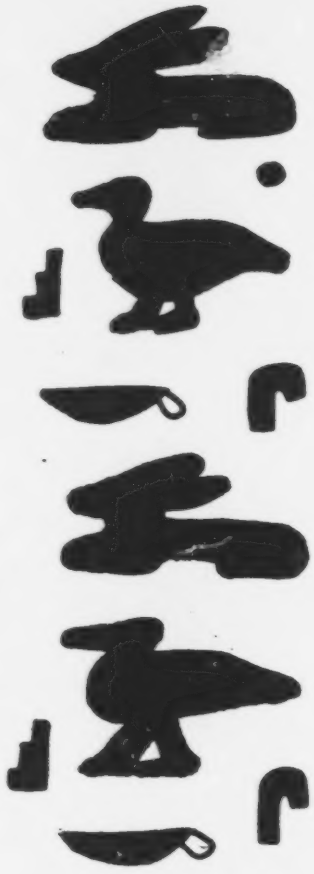
The enrichment sections (e.g. Literature, Language) can be omitted if desired.



The Great Sphinx at Giza

CONTENTS:

1. Teacher overview.
2. Fact Sheet.
3. Presentations and student activities.
4. Additional resources/Bibliography.
5. Set of Flashcards.
6. Slide-tape (accompanying script).
7. Music tape (optional).



SUBJECTS:

1. Village Life
2. Urban Life
3. Nile
4. Government
5. Agriculture
6. Economy
7. Health/Games
8. Education
9. Religion
10. People/Beliefs
11. Dress
12. Food
13. Literature
14. Language
15. Dictionary

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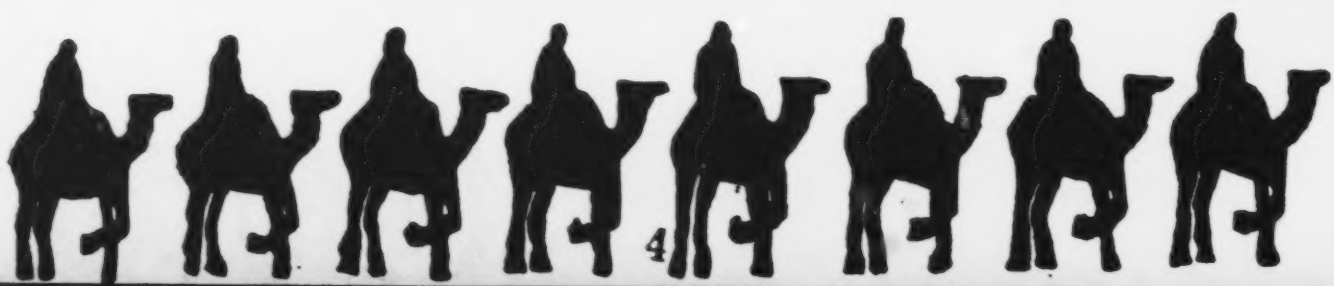

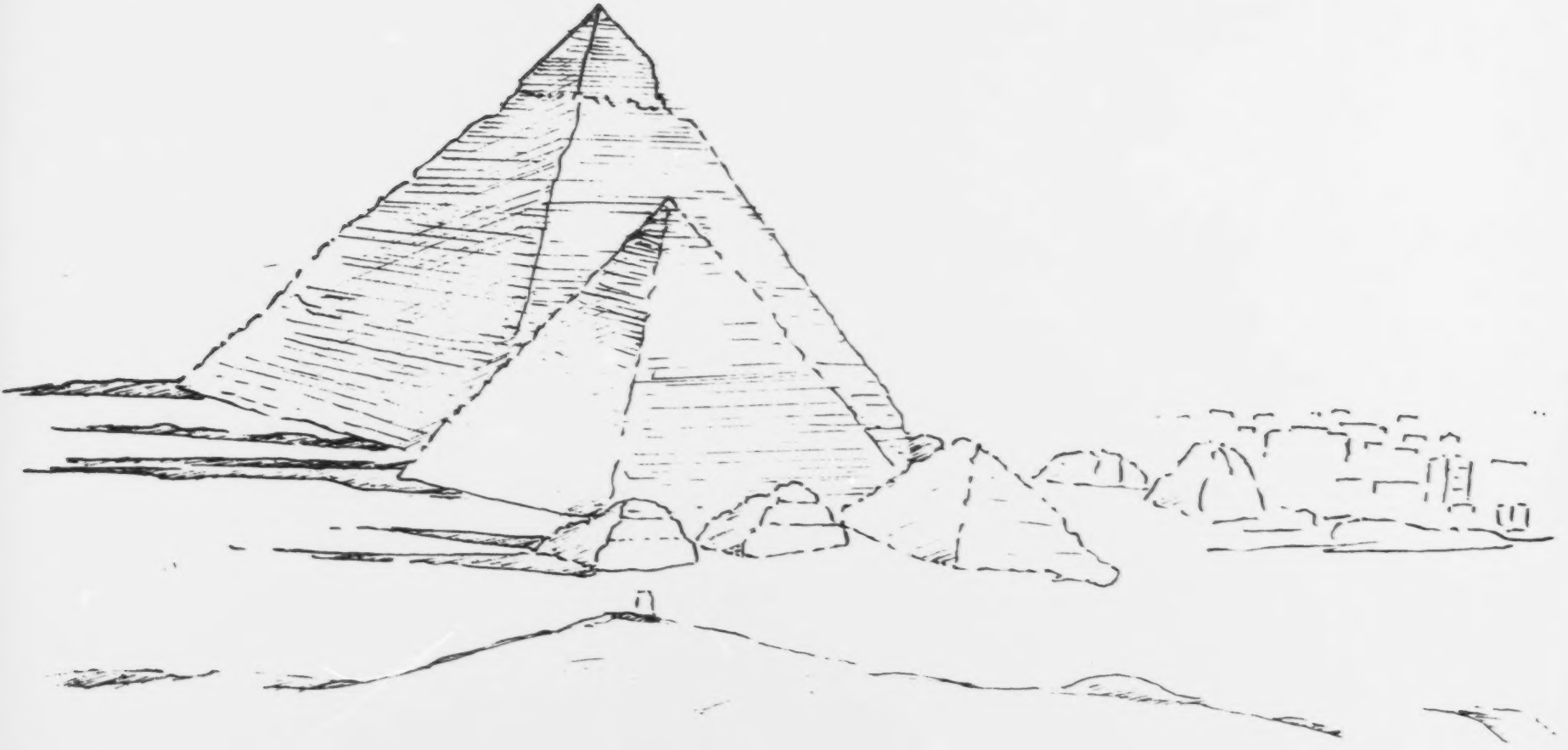

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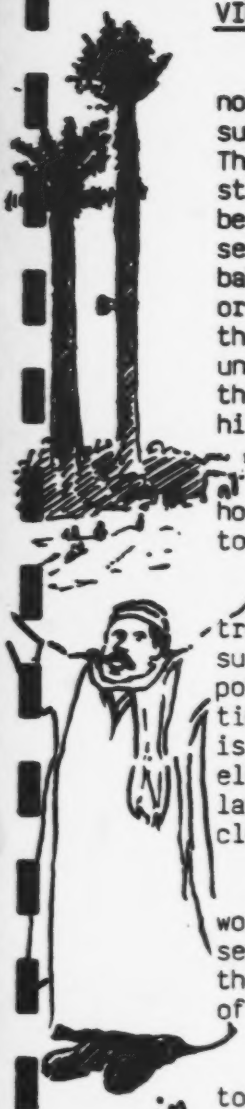
VILLAGE LIFE

Approximately 55% of Egyptians live in villages along the Nile that have not changed in appearance for thousands of years. Houses are made out of sun-dried mud bricks and are repaired by filling the cracks with fresh mud. These houses are built close together, above the flood line, with narrow streets and small courtyards running in between. The house itself has a beaten earth floor with a raised area of the room for sleeping. There may be several rooms which are furnished simply, one containing a brick oven for baking and warmth, and sometimes an adjoining shed for animals. The 'FELLAH', or peasant farmer, prizes his animals and may let them sleep in the warmth of the house. Outside the door is a 'MASTABA' or bench where you might see the unemployed sitting during the day and working men when they have returned from the fields. The village headman or 'OMDAH' has a two-storeyed house to show his importance.

Similar buildings made of modern materials have been tried, but the new houses are unsuccessful as they are too expensive, too hot in the summer and too cold in the winter.



Muezzin

Although most of the people in the village are farmers, there are many traders and shops along the narrow streets. There are different occupations such as tailor, barber, mason, government clerk, servant, artisan, pottery-maker, and a 'MUEZZIN' (priest) who calls the people to pray five times a day from the minaret beside the village mosque. Although hydro-power is available, most people cannot afford such a luxury so few actually use electricity. A small kerosene stove is used for cooking and oil or gasoline lamps light the houses. Streets are lit with bright moonlight and the sky is clear with thousands of beautiful stars.

The most important concern of the village is family life. The family works together in the fields producing food, builds houses, and provides security and stability for its members. People who move from the village to the city experience problems that are difficult to overcome without the help of a family support system.

For relaxation at the end of the day the men gather in the coffee house to drink coffee, smoke, tell stories, and play backgammon and draughts. Children play in the moonlight while women meet in the courtyard by the well to talk.

Important changes are taking place in the villages. For 6,000 years, pharaohs and feudal systems kept the 'FELLAHIN' (peasant farmers, pronounced fel-a-HEEN') in poverty. Peasant farmers did not own land but worked the land of a few wealthy landlords.

Not until the Revolution of 1952, when President Nasser was brought to power, were the giant estates broken up and many of the peasants given their own land. This process is called LAND REFORM. The Revolution also brought other changes to assist the fellahin, such as agricultural cooperatives which help to provide seed, tools, and fertilizers. These cooperatives also have a social aid fund which goes toward schools, mosques, medical clinics, lighting, and individual farmers who need extra financial help.

Since 1952, the government has dug artesian wells to provide each village with sources of clean drinking water. Water from the Nile carries several diseases which seriously weaken the majority of the villagers. Clean drinking

water, disease control, and increased medical services are slowly improving the health of the villagers. Because of this the population is rapidly increasing.

Arable land is limited by the deserts and individual parcels of land have already been divided so small that they cannot feed the families that work them. Many village people are now finding themselves unemployed with no land to cultivate. Unless they find other village occupations they will likely join the thousands of others leaving the countryside for the cities, with hopes of new employment opportunities and a different way of life.

It is hoped that education, new agricultural techniques, pure drinking water, improved health services, and electricity will improve life for villagers in Egypt.

Stop and think: Why would family life be so important to the village?

Stop and think: Why are the mud huts so durable? - Egypt has little or no rainfall.

Activity - Suggest three reasons why mud is a practical material for building village houses.

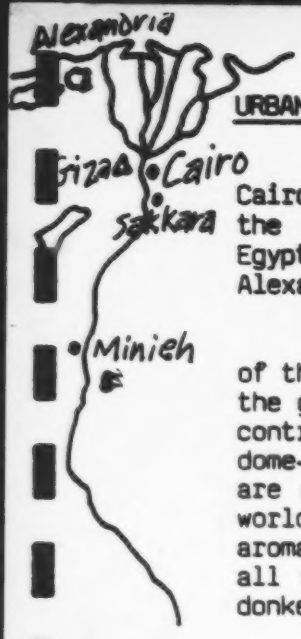
Question - Who do you think is more careful with the water they use, Egyptian villagers or Canadians? Why?

Activity - Imagine yourself as a villager in Egypt. List the ADVANTAGES and DISAVANTAGES of leaving your village for the city.

Activity - (Library) - The Egyptian night sky is quite different than the night sky in Canada. Using a resource book find out what stars are seen in Egypt. (Why are these stars brighter and more plentiful?)

Library Research: The 1952 Revolution marked the first time in over 2000 years that Egyptians were under Egyptian rule. Using reference books, make a list of all the changes that Nasser wanted to make to improve life for the village people.

Activity - Do we have cooperatives in Canada? What is a 'cooperative'? How is it different from a business? Investigate a cooperative in your city (e.g. food co-op, housing co-op, unemployment co-op, agricultural co-op).



URBAN LIFE:

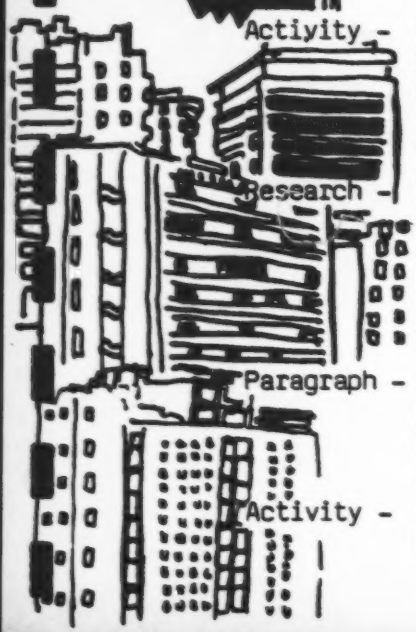
The Nile Delta is one of the most densely populated areas of the world. Cairo, which is the capital city of Egypt, has about 10 million people. It is the largest city in Africa and the Arab world. Alexandria, the largest Egyptian port on the Mediterranean Sea, has about 4 million people. Cairo and Alexandria are both cities of contrasts.

Cairo is built on a narrow plain on the east bank of the Nile at the head of the Delta. Its lush green parks, palm trees, and Nile waters contrast with the golden deserts and pyramids in the distance. Slim modern office buildings contrast with vast areas of two and three-storey apartments. Magnificent dome-shaped MOSQUES with towering MINARETS, Islamic museums, and universities are a reminder that Cairo is a centre of religious learning in the Moslem world. Grand bazaars and narrow lanes are alive with crafts, trades, and rich aromas. Streets are bustling with street vendors, pedestrians, and traffic of all sorts - trains, busses, cars, heavily laden animals, and carts drawn by donkeys.

Everywhere there is evidence of both wealth and poverty. Many people live in modern housing with several rooms, furniture, piped water, electricity, and other features similar to homes in Canadian and American cities. Many more people live in old districts of limestone huts and in gigantic ghettos, in shacks, tents or shelters, without water, sewers, or power. So many people are moving from the country into the city in search of work, causing a serious shortage of housing. The government has been helping to produce thousands of low-cost housing units for urban workers. It is also considering a permit system to limit the number of people who can settle in Cairo and Alexandria.

Transportation is quite a serious problem in Cairo. The public transport system is not adequate to meet the ever-increasing needs of the growing population. Roads built before the availability of the car are not wide enough to handle the number of cars and other vehicles moving daily in and out of the city. The government is now building a new road system to cope with this pressure.

The family, which is the central part of village life, has been broken down as people have moved to the cities. Poor people, therefore have fewer family members to help pay for basic necessities.



Activity - Using an atlas, find other parts of the world with a similar population density to the Nile Delta. List three of these countries or regions.
*SUGGESTION: Find out the population of Vancouver and the largest city in Canada. Compare these with the population of Cairo.

Research - Egypt's rural population has always been larger than its urban population. Now, however, the number of people in the cities is growing faster than the number of people in the countryside. Using reference books and your own imagination, suggest several reasons why so many people are moving from the countryside to the cities.

Paragraph - Write a paragraph describing how you might feel as an unemployed Egyptian in Cairo. You have moved from your village far away and now find yourself without family or work. Consider the contrasts you see in the city and how they would make you feel.

Activity - List reasons why you think the Egyptian government is helping to build thousands of low-cost housing units in Egyptian cities.

The Nile is the longest river in the world (6700 Km.)

EGYPT

SUDAN

UGANDA

Lake Victoria

Mediterranean Sea

Alexandria

Damietta

Port Said

The Suez Canal

• Almost all of Egypt's population lives along the fertile banks of the Nile.

Giza

Cairo

• The Nile divides the great Sahara Desert into the Libyan Desert to the west and the Arabian Desert to the east.

Red Sea

Minieh

A Felucca (traditional sailing boat)

The Dam controlled the annual Nile floods and provided irrigation for the cultivation of almost one million additional hectares of land.

The Dam also tripled Egypt's energy production.

• Since flood control, fertile silt is no longer deposited over the fields. Farmers now have to use expensive chemical fertilizers.

• The lack of cleansing floods have also left stagnant water perfect breeding ground for diseases.

Aswan Dam

• The Dam flooded the entire habitable region of Nubia forcing the total Nubian population (100,000) to be relocated.

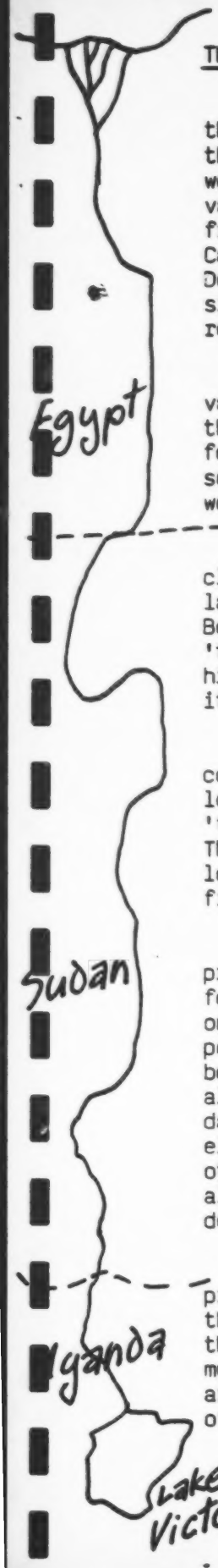
Aswan Lake

Electric power station

Tunnels

SUDAN

• The High Dam is over 2 miles across the top and has created Lake Nasser which is 500 km long and stretches into neighboring Sudan.



THE NILE RIVER: A Ribbon of Life

The Nile River, the longest river in the world (6700 km), originates as the Blue Nile from Ethiopia and the White Nile from Lake Victoria. It divides the great Sahara Desert into two regions, the Libyan or Western Desert to the west and the Arabian Desert to the east. It has created a highly fertile valley from the city of Aswan to the Mediterranean Sea. The valley varies from one to fourteen miles wide, with limestone hills on either side. At Cairo, the Nile splits into two main branches forming the great fan-shaped Delta. The Delta is a result of thousands of years of deposit of rich Nile silt into the Mediterranean Sea. The Nile Delta is one of the most fertile regions of the world.

Rain is almost unknown in Egypt. Aside from a few desert OASES, the Nile valley is the only green arable land in the country. Therefore, only 4% of the country is habitable. Almost all of Egypt's population lives along the fertile banks of the Nile. The population density is about 1300 people per square kilometre in the cultivated areas - one of the highest densities in the world. This shows the importance of the Nile to the Egyptians!

Each summer for thousands of years, the Nile flooded its banks and cleansed the valley, pouring new earth from the mountains of Ethiopia over the land. These floods were the annual renewal of life for the entire country. Because the Nile brought life to their land, the Egyptians called the river 'the living Nile'. Thousands of years ago, Egyptian civilization became highly developed because of the people's need to control the flood and to use it to irrigate their land.

In the 1960's Egypt put an end to the annual flood of the Nile by constructing one of the world's largest dams, the High Dam at Aswan. No longer does the Nile pour fresh, fertile soil over the fields of the 'fellahin' (peasant farmers); the Nile waters are now controlled year-round. The High Dam is over two miles across the top and has created a lake 550 km long into neighbouring Sudan. This reservoir is called Lake Nasser, after the first Egyptian leader following the 1952 Revolution.

The value of the High Dam has been controversial. Agricultural production has greatly increased. By storing flood waters so they may be used for irrigation, the dam has allowed the cultivation of 30% more land (almost one million additional hectares), much needed by the growing Egyptian population. The year-round irrigation system enables three to four crops to be grown annually, where only one or two were grown before. The reservoir also ensures water for irrigation during years when the river is low. The dam's hydroelectricity plant tripled Egypt's energy production, making electricity available for the large industries developing at Aswan, Cairo and other cities. Electricity is now available for the thousands of villages along the Nile. The dam also protects the country against occasionally destructive high floods.

However, the High Dam has also created a number of new and serious problems for the Egyptians. Since fertile soil is no longer deposited over the fields, farmers are now resorting to using chemical fertilizers to keep the soil productive. These are expensive for the fellahin and, ironically, much of the hydroelectric power is now required to manufacture these artificial fertilizers. The soil is becoming more salty and there is a danger of gradual soil erosion. Because silt is no longer deposited at the mouth of

the Delta, the Mediterranean Sea is beginning to eat away at the Delta itself, washing away some of the highly prized fields. Unhealthy wastes are no longer carried away by the cleansing floods. Much stagnant water now stands in the irrigation canals providing perfect breeding grounds for diseases. Most peasants still have the dull and difficult job of raising the water from the canals to their fields because mechanical water pumps are expensive. The dam flooded the entire habitable region of Nubia in southern Egypt, forcing the total Nubian population of 100,000 to leave.

Now the amount of fresh Nile water reaching the Mediterranean Sea is reduced because of the intense irrigation efforts. Much water is lost by evaporation in the fields and irrigation canals. Therefore, the salinity (saltiness) of the sea water is increasing and the ecology of the Mediterranean is changing drastically from a half-fresh to a saltwater ecosystem. The fishing industry along the coast has been seriously affected.

The Aswan High Dam is a typical example of how modern large-scale technology can affect traditional human life and the environment. There are advantages and disadvantages to be weighed, and always the long term effects must be considered. (e.g. What will happen in 500 years when Lake Nasser is completely filled with silt?) Do the short term benefits that Egypt has gained in food production and industrial development outweigh the loss in natural soil fertility, the disappearance of some of the Delta, and the drastic change in the Mediterranean ecosystem? Could smaller scale technologies achieve similar benefits without causing such drastic changes?

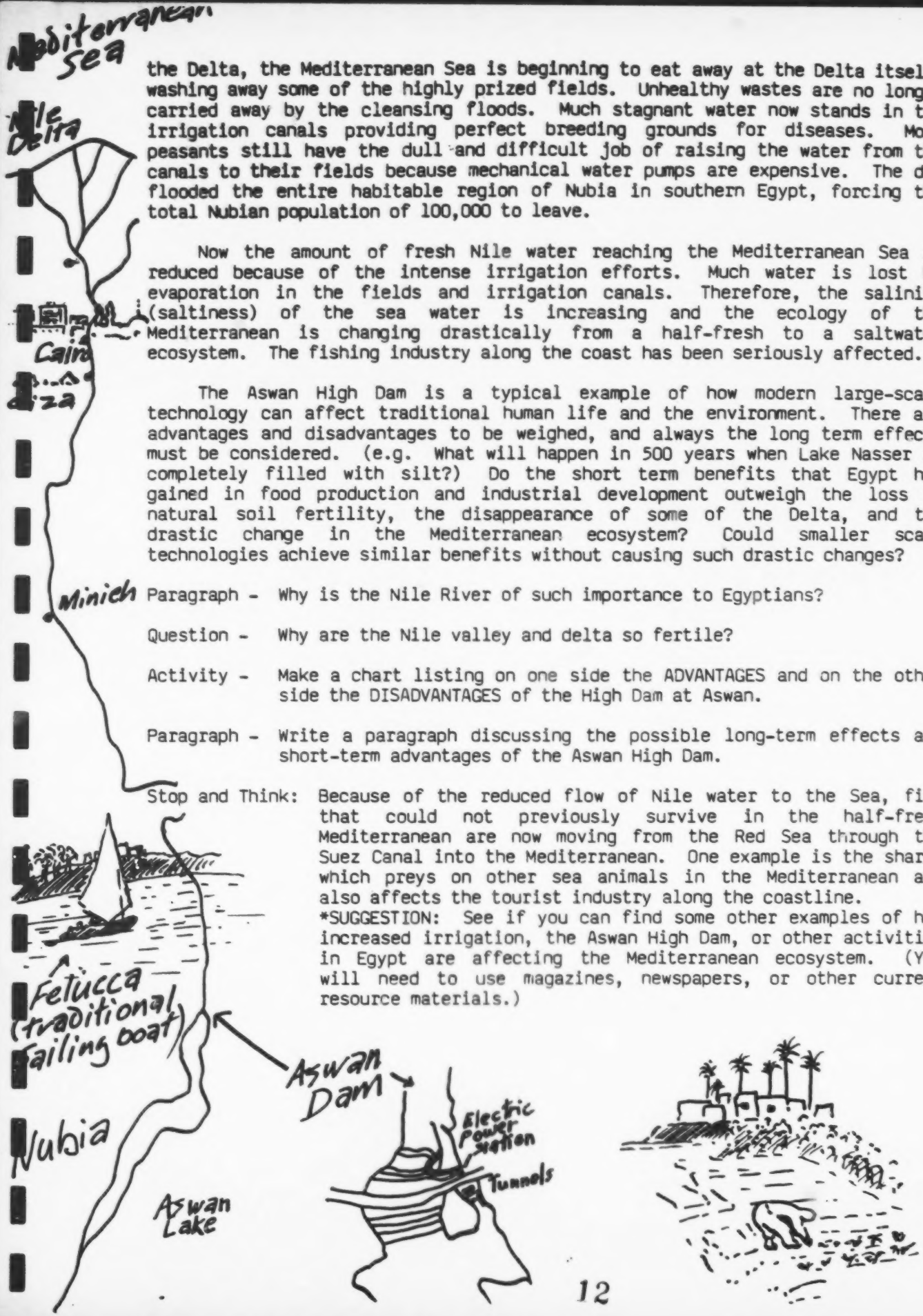
Paragraph - Why is the Nile River of such importance to Egyptians?

Question - Why are the Nile valley and delta so fertile?

Activity - Make a chart listing on one side the ADVANTAGES and on the other side the DISADVANTAGES of the High Dam at Aswan.

Paragraph - Write a paragraph discussing the possible long-term effects and short-term advantages of the Aswan High Dam.

Stop and Think: Because of the reduced flow of Nile water to the Sea, fish that could not previously survive in the half-fresh Mediterranean are now moving from the Red Sea through the Suez Canal into the Mediterranean. One example is the shark, which preys on other sea animals in the Mediterranean and also affects the tourist industry along the coastline.
*SUGGESTION: See if you can find some other examples of how increased irrigation, the Aswan High Dam, or other activities in Egypt are affecting the Mediterranean ecosystem. (You will need to use magazines, newspapers, or other current resource materials.)



GOVERNMENT; SOCIO-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

A. History of the 1952 Revolution

The richness of the Nile valley and delta has attracted hundreds of rulers over the past 6000 years. Many wanted to make the wealth of the Nile their own. From 3100-325 B.C. Egypt was ruled by 'pharaohs', who were prosperous kings with immense control over the land and peasants of the Nile. From 525 B.C. to 1952 A.D., many foreign countries controlled the Egyptian peasants, including the Persians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Turks, and finally the British.

In 1952, Egyptians had finally had enough of oppressive feudal systems. A group of Egyptian army officers, led by Gamal Abdel Nasser, overthrew the monarchy of King Farouk. The officers seized power without bloodshed. This was the 1952 Revolution.

Nasser became the first true Egyptian President. Because Nasser came from the class of working people and fellahin, he had warm feelings for the rural peasants who made up the majority of the population. He had the full support of the Egyptian people. For the first time in history, peasants were free from the bonds of wealthy landlords and rulers. Peasants were finally granted some dignity and self-respect. Nasser aimed to sweep away foreign influences in the country, to establish a fairer distribution of wealth between rich and poor people, and to develop the natural resources of Egypt for its own people. Nasser's first priority was 'land reform', which 1) limited the amount of land each person could own; 2) gave some of the land from the rich people to many of the landless peasants; and 3) reduced the land rental fees for those peasants still without land. Nasser also established a democratic government system which formed the basis of the Egyptian government today.

B. Government

The structure of the Egyptian government has several similarities to the Canadian and American government systems. All men and women over the age of 18 have the right to vote but unlike Canada and the U.S., voting is compulsory for men. The Egyptian public elects 382 representatives to the People's Assembly, a law-making group similar to the Canadian House of Commons. Unlike Canada, at least half of the representatives must be workers or peasant farmers (fellahin). Unlike many other countries of the world, women may run in the elections. The Egyptian President appoints a Council of Ministers, similar to the Canadian Federal Cabinet. However, the President and his Council of Ministers have broader powers than the Canadian Prime Minister and Cabinet. The Egyptian government plays a strong role in the country's economy and an increasing role in religion.

The current President, Hosni Mubarak (pronounced moo-BAR'-ak) became President in 1981 following the assassination of President Anwar Sadat. Before Sadat's death, Hosni Mubarak was Vice-President. The largest political party is Mubarak's National Democratic Party. The official opposition party is the Socialist Labour Party.

As in Canada and the U.S., Egyptians have local governments in the provinces, towns, and villages. Local people are elected to these

governments. These governments help manage housing, education, irrigation, health services, farm cooperatives, rural industries, and public utilities in their areas.

C. President Mubarak's Approach

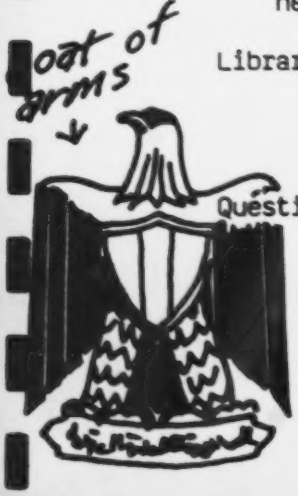
Since the death of Anwar Sadat, there has been pressure on President Mubarak to strengthen democracy, reduce corruption in government, deal with the growing difference in income between rich and poor people, and encourage investment that will increase employment and production. President Mubarak is focussing on serving the interests of the masses by investing in production of food, affordable housing, medicine, clothing, and furniture. He is attempting to discourage rich people from wasting money on luxuries that do not benefit the country. Mubarak's calm and stable approach to improving life from the 'grassroots' up appears to be popular with the Egyptian people.

D. Middle East Relations

Egypt is an important actor in the Middle East. In past decades, Egypt was the political leader of the Arab countries. When Britain created the state of Israel at the end of World War II for the settlement of Jewish people, Palestinian people who lived there were forced to move. The Arab nations, which are mainly Moslem, have always been very much opposed to the existance of Israel and to the fate of the displaced (homeless) Palestinians. Because of these religious and territorial conflicts, Egypt and Israel went to war in 1956, 1967, and 1973. In 1967, Israel captured Egypt's oil rich Sinai peninsula. At the same time, Israel blocked the Suez Canal which connects the Red Sea to the Mediterranean. In 1973, Egypt regained the canal but Israel continued to occupy most of the Sinai. To the great displeasure of the other Arab nations - and to the surprise of the world - President Sadat initiated an Egypt-Israel peace agreement in 1977. Israel returned the Sinai to Egypt in 1982.

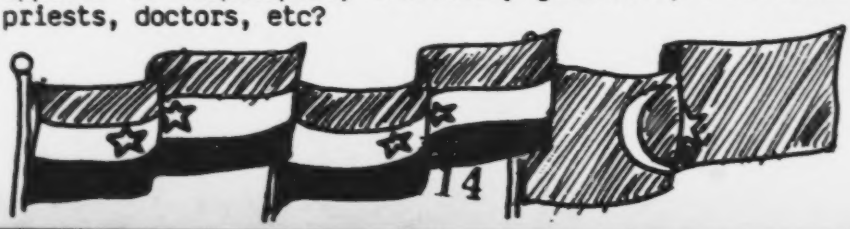
Because of Egypt's peaceful relationship with Israel, Arab countries have been refusing to invest in, or to buy products from Egypt. The Arab countries also cut off their billions of dollars of aid to Egypt. As a result, Egypt has become more dependent on European and American finance, technology, and armaments.

Since Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, Egypt has withdrawn its friendly relations with Israel. However, Egypt is still trying to create peace in the region. President Mubarak is urging not only the Arab countries but also the United States and Canada to take stronger steps to help create peace in the Middle East.



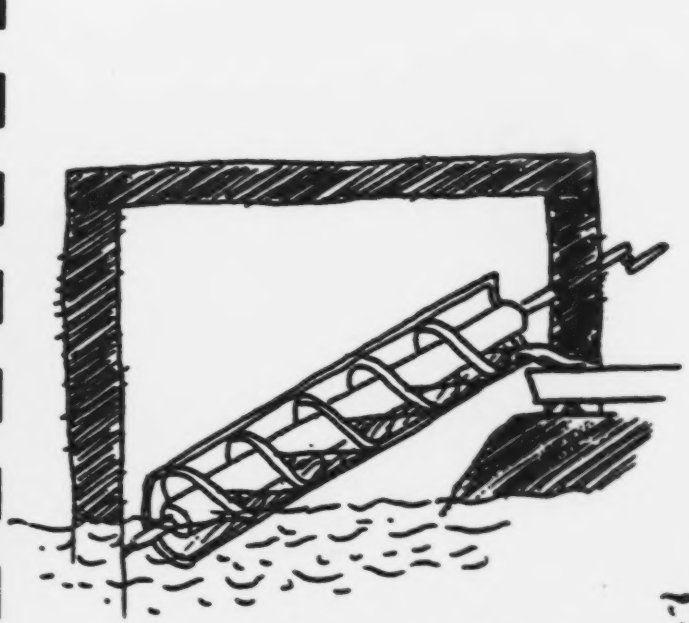
Library Research: Using resource books, find out how Egypt was changed by President Nasser following the 1952 Revolution. In paragraphs or in point form, list President Nasser's objectives and/or accomplishments for the people of Egypt.

Question - Why do you think former President Nasser thought it was important that at least half of the elected representatives of the People's Assembly should be workers or peasant farmers (fellahin), as opposed to shopkeepers, university graduates, industrial leaders, priests, doctors, etc?

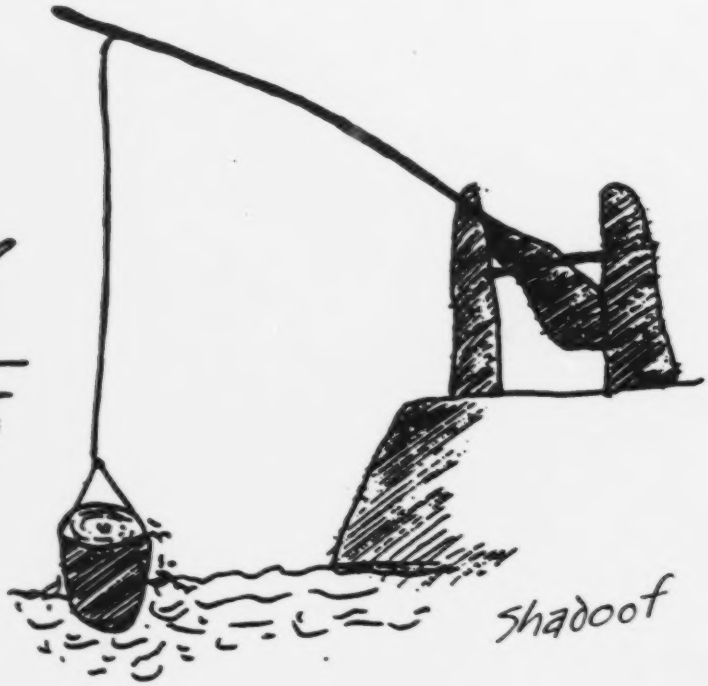


AGRICULTURE:

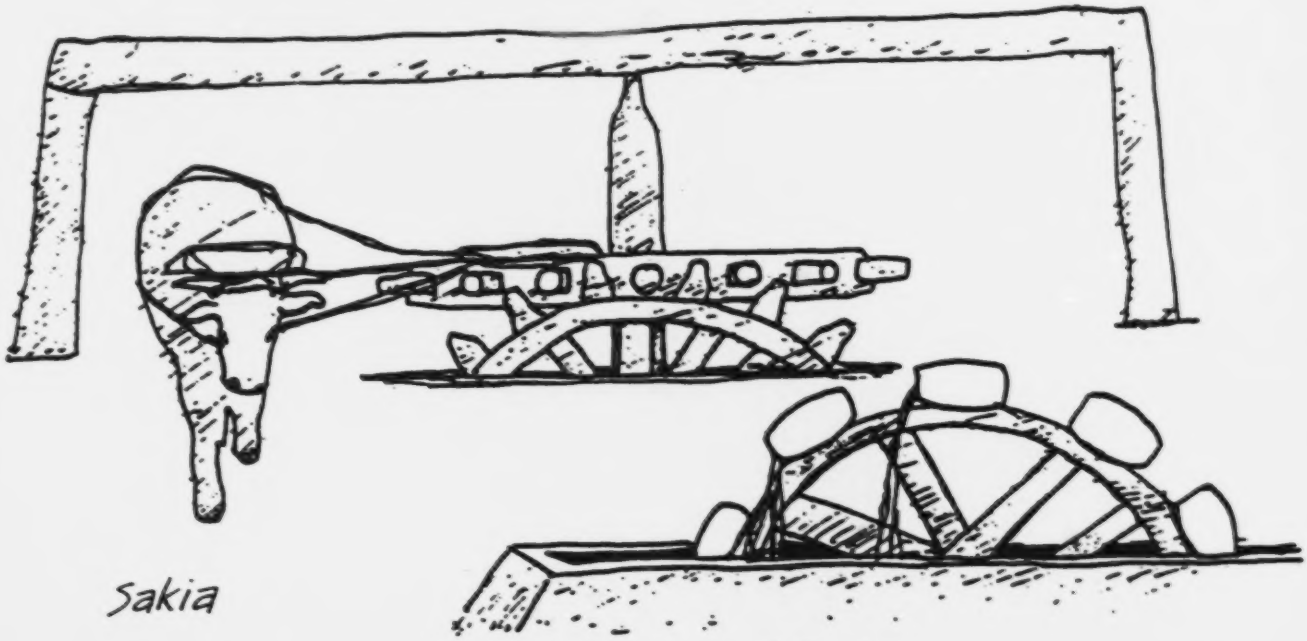
Crops depend entirely on water brought from the Nile. Although the extensive, sophisticated network of damming and canals has helped bring water on a regular basis to the village, the farmer still spends a great deal of his time and energy transporting the water to the fields on a day to day basis. This is accomplished with devices that date back to ancient times. The 'SHADOOF', the 'TANBOUR' (Archimedean screw) and the 'SAKIA' are all primitive ways of transporting water used by the fellahin. Below are diagrams of these methods:



Tanbour (Archimedean screw)



Shadoof



Sakia

The farmer also uses simple tools to work his land: a 'FASS' or metal-tipped hoe for digging, a sickle for reaping, a wooden plough drawn by animals, a 'MAKTAF' or wicker basket for carrying soil and grain, a wooden sledge for threshing and a wooden fork for winnowing. Each family works their own piece of land which is normally between 2 - 5 feddans (approximately 2 - 5 acres). There are generally four main crops grown during the year. It is the government's intent to improve farming methods and increase productivity. An attempt is being made to introduce mechanization, increase production of cereal crops such as rice, wheat, and barley, and aim at improving the sub-soil. At present the main summer crops are cotton (which is the most important export that Egypt produces), maize, millet, and rice. The main winter crops are wheat, barley, lentils, onions, and garlic. 'BERSEEM' or Egyptian clover is grown and used as fertilizer and fodder. Sugar cane is a major crop used in the production of sugar and alcohol. Below is a chart of other crops produced during the year.

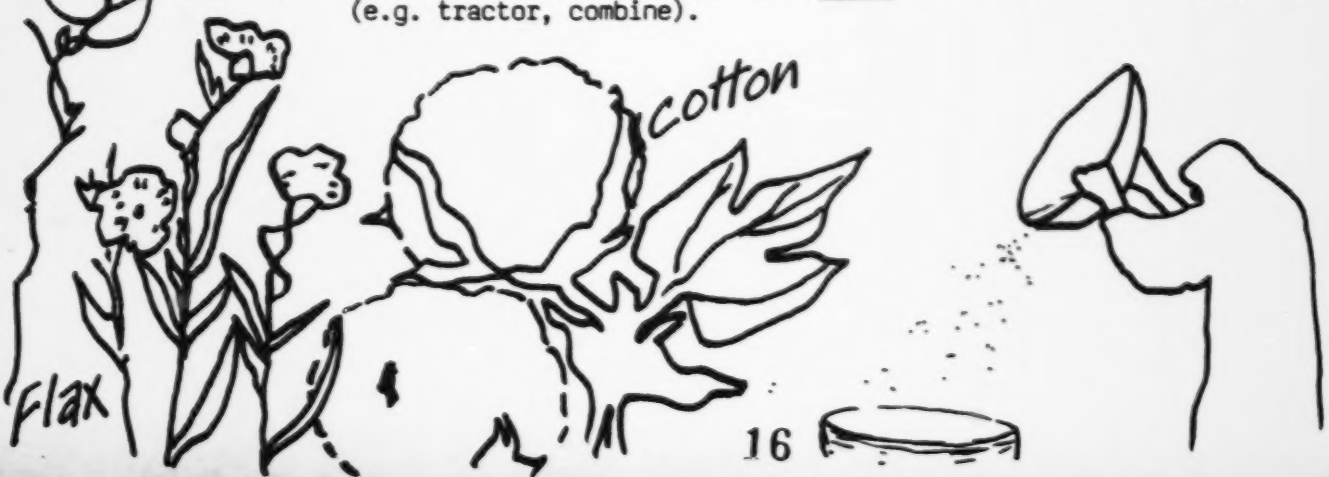
OIL	TEXTILES	FRUIT	VEGETABLES	
sesame	flax	citrus	onions	peas
earthnuts		grapes	beans	okra
castor-oil		pomegranates	pumpkins	beets
		melons	carrots	cucumber
			eggplant	tomato
			marrow	radish
			cabbage	turnip
			sweet potato	potato

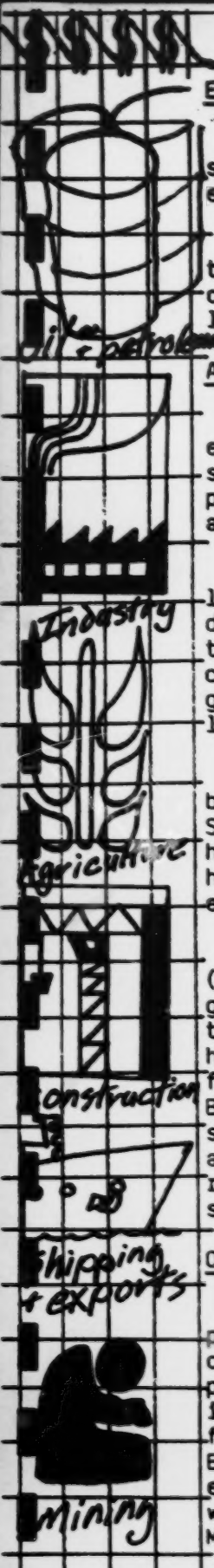
There are two major desert crops found in the oases of the Sinai desert where there are 400,000 nomads or desert dwellers. These crops are dates and olives but they are not important agricultural crops to the country as a whole. An attempt is being made to reclaim the now useless desert by removing the sand and irrigating the land.

Egypt now faces a serious problem of trying to feed her fast growing population. Because of the great difficulty of irrigating new desert areas for cultivation, Egypt now falls far below self-sufficiency in food production. The country now depends on large imports of food from other countries. In ancient times Egypt was the bread-basket (or grain producing region) of the Mediterranean world but by 1990 it is expected to become the greatest wheat-importing country in the world.

Question - Find out what self-sufficiency means. Is Egypt self-sufficient in food production? If not, why?

Activity - Give 4 reasons why Egyptians don't use modern farm equipment (e.g. tractor, combine).





ECONOMY:

Egypt's economy is largely directed by the government. The government supervises the privately-owned, cooperative, and government-owned parts of the economy.

Natural resources of Egypt include the water and fish of the Nile River, the rich soil of the Nile valley, petroleum, natural gas, phosphates, iron ore, gold, silver, salt, and other minerals, and quarry products such as limestone (used in making steel, fertilizers, cement and lime).

Agriculture

Throughout Egypt's history, agriculture along the Nile has been the main economic activity. (See AGRICULTURE Unit.) About half the population is still involved in growing cotton and food crops. Egypt is the world's largest producer of long-fibre cotton. Raw cotton, cotton yarn and cotton textiles are major exports. Some rice is also exported.

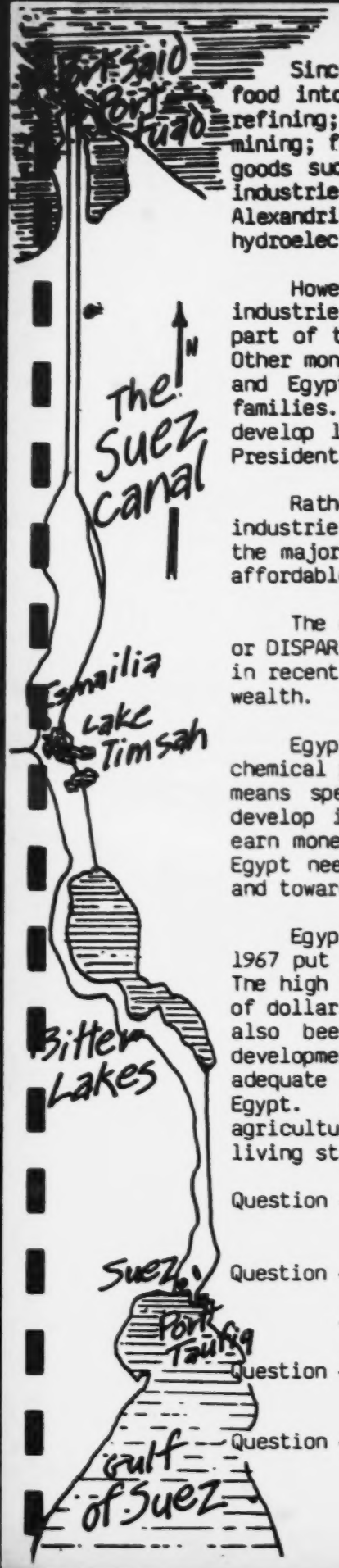
Cotton has been a FEUDAL and COLONIAL cash crop, exported since the early 1800's. This means that landlords and foreigners who controlled the country, demanded that the peasants grow cotton for export rather than food for themselves. Since the 1952 Revolution, Egypt has been attempting to grow less cotton so that the land can be used to grow food for Egyptians. The government now restricts the planting of cotton to one-third of the owner's land.

Because Many Egyptians are very poor and cannot afford the high price of basic imported food items, the government is spending billions of dollars to SUBSIDIZE (or help pay for) basic foods like wheat and flour. FOOD SUBSIDIES help make basic foods available to low-income workers who would otherwise be hungry and malnourished. However, these subsidies are a great strain on the economy.

Western international pressures, such as the International Monetary Fund (I.M.F.) which makes loans to developing countries, are trying to discourage government spending in social services and food subsidies. They prefer that the money be used to increase production and expand the economy. The I.M.F. has been offering loans to Egypt only if the Egyptian government reduces the food subsidies. In 1977 the government tried to reduce food subsidies. Because this affected the poorest people the most, workers, peasants, and students rioted in Cairo. The government is now investing more money in agriculture to try to produce more food within the country. Because this will reduce the amount of expensive food imported, this will reduce the need to subsidize food.

Other Industries

Before the 1952 Revolution, textile manufacturing (based on cotton production) was Egypt's main industry next to agriculture. Many towns and cities in the Delta, including Alexandria, were developed around cotton processing, marketing, and exporting. Alexandria, the largest coastal city, is the main cotton port and is an important centre of textile mills and factories. Egypt has always been a junction in the shipping trade between Europe and the Far East. Since the completion of the Suez Canal in 1869, the economy of the Suez Canal towns was based on supplying the ships and trading with the passengers. (The Suez Canal is the man-made link between the Mediterranean and Red Seas.)



Since 1952, Egypt has been devloping other industries like processing raw food into refined products (e.g. sugar refining); oil and gas drilling and refining; iron and steel manufacturing; aluminum smelting; gold and silver mining; fertilizer, cement and paper production; and manufacturing of consumer goods such as furniture, appliances, cars, and tractors. Most manufacturing industries are located in and around Egypt's largest cities, Cairo and Alexandria. These industries have largely been made possible by the hydroelectric power produced by the Aswan High Dam.

However, as in all developing countries, money to develop these local industries must come from somewhere. The export of oil now brings in a large part of this money. Cotton and rice exports have always been very important. Other money comes from tourism, fees for ship passage through the Suez Canal, and Egyptians working outside the country who send money home for their families. These all bring foreign money into the country which helps to develop local industries. In addition, the late President Sadat and current President Mubarak have been encouraging investment from outside the country.

Rather than focussing on expanding or developing new large-scale industries, President Mubarak is attempting to look after the basic needs of the majority of the people. He is directing investment toward such things as affordable housing, food, medicine, clothing and furniture.

The extreme difference between poverty and wealth is called an INCOME GAP or DISPARITY. In Egypt (and in Canada and the U.S) this gap has been widening in recent years. Mubarak is trying to eliminate these extremes of poverty and wealth.

Egypt's main imports are machinery, food, transport equipment, metal, chemical products, electrical machinery, and wood. Importing foreign products means spending money outside the country when it could be better used to develop industries within Egypt. This would create jobs for Egyptians and earn money from foreign sales which would help pay for the food imports which Egypt needs. Mubarak is working toward self-sufficiency in food production and toward reduction of other imports.

Egypt's wars with Israel and the resulting closure of the Suez Canal in 1967 put a strain on the Egyptian economy in the late 1960's and early 70's. The high level of armaments has been costly. The more recent halt of billions of dollars of aid from Arab countries because Egypt made peace with Israel has also been a severe blow to the economy. In spite of the industrial development which has occurred in recent decades, development has not been adequate to solve the immense social and unemployment problems now facing Egypt. However, the possibilities of new oil discoveries, improved agricultural productivity, and expanded tourism may offer hopes of improved living standards for Egyptians in years to come.

Question - Define 'cash crop'. Why is Egypt now restricting the amount of cotton farmers are allowed to grow?

Question - a. Why were there food riots in Cairo in 1977?

- b. What was the condition of the I.M.F. loan to Egypt?

Question - List six ways that money for development flows into Egypt from other countries.

Question - What is an 'income disparity'? Are income disparities found only in developing countries?

HEALTH:

The High Dam on the Nile has stopped the seasonal flooding of the river in an attempt to improve irrigation. The stoppage of these cleansing waters has increased health problems. Much stagnant water now stands in the irrigation canals. These become breeding grounds for insects and parasites which carry harmful diseases to the fellahin. Malaria mosquitoes, snails carrying bilharzia, intestinal worms, and flies which carry eye diseases, reproduce rapidly in this environment. Nearly 90% of Egyptians suffer from bilharzia, a disease that makes people feel tired and takes away their energy. The water that is so essential for agriculture gives a disease that lessens the manpower necessary to work the fields. Disease control has helped limit these diseases to a few areas only.

Many children die during the first 5 years of life, but if a child survives he can expect to lead a normal life to middle age. Clean drinking water, disease control, and slowly improving health services have led to a very rapid population increase in recent decades. The average life span reaches the middle fifties. In Canada and other industrialized countries people can expect to live longer because health services are more available and therefore it is easier to control disease. With spreading health services and education, people in the future will live longer and enjoy better health.

Question - Over the past 7,000 years, Egypt has not had nearly the population that it has today. What factors have caused this population explosion?

Library Project: Find out more information about the following diseases in Egypt: bilharzia, malaria, intestinal worms.

GAMES:

Egyptian children in the village spend a lot of time in school and working in the fields, but love playing games in their free time. Some games are played at night in the moonlight as electric lights are not common in the village. Some are similar to our games such as hide-and-seek. Here is a version of a favorite game:

An older boy will carry a younger, smaller boy slung across his back like a water skin. The younger therefore is the water skin and the older the water carrier. As the smaller one has his legs free he must kick at a pair or pairs of opponents to make the water carrier drop the water skin.

This game is called The Water Carrier Fight.

EDUCATION:

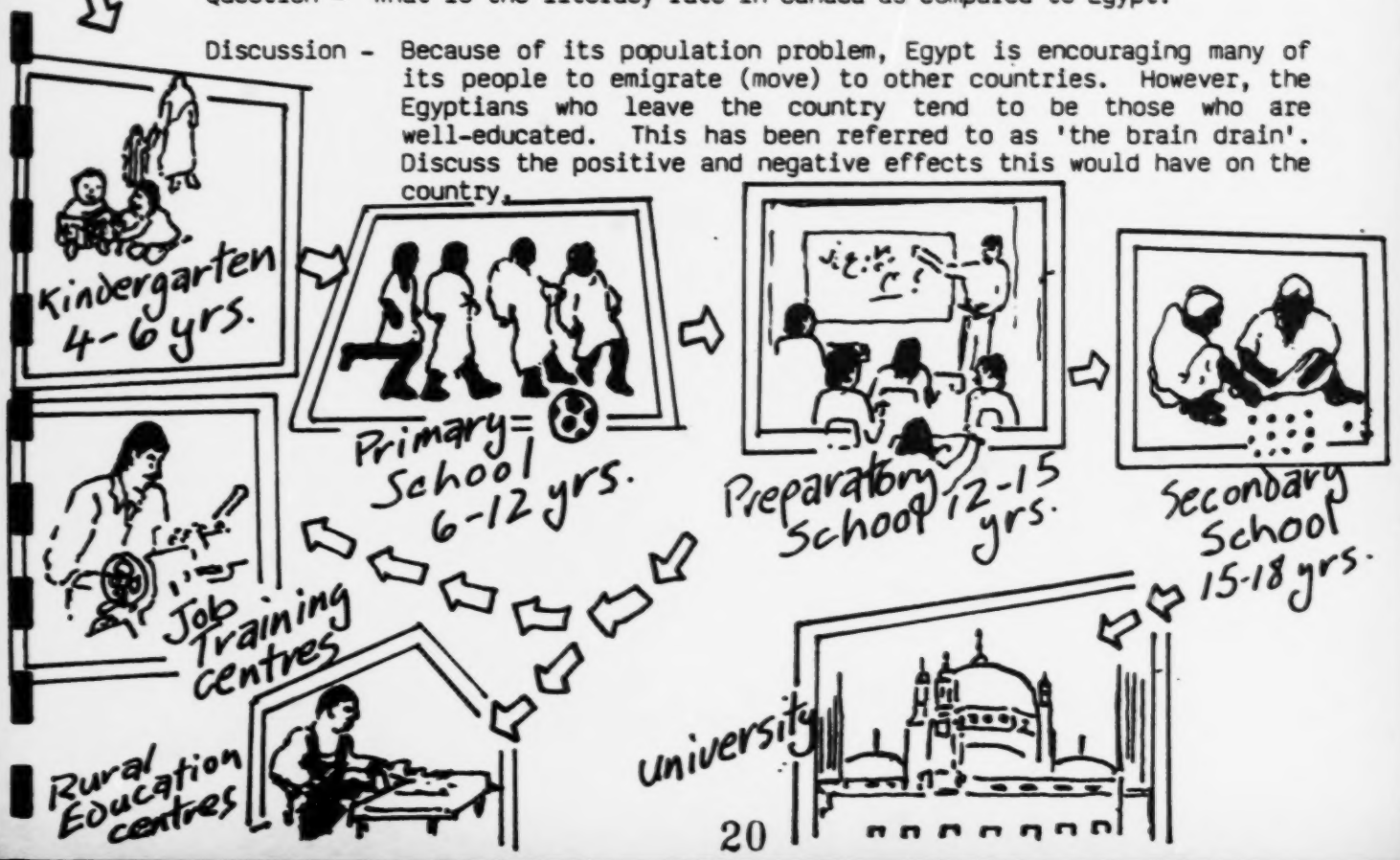
Since ancient times, children in Egypt attended a 'KUTTAB' in their village where they would learn to recite the Koran by heart. From there they could go to the oldest university in the world, the University of Al-Azhar, where they would become religious teachers themselves. In modern Egypt these kuttabs have been replaced with a modern school system. The change from old to new is slow and involves some problems. Children are only required to attend the first six years of primary school where they receive a basic education in Arabic. In the older and traditional system, children attended when they could and left school only when their goal was completed. Under the new system they face great difficulties: Since they must help in the fields they they miss a great deal of school. The schools themselves are overcrowded and do not have enough textbooks, materials, or qualified teachers for all the children. It is not surprising that many become discouraged and leave school during or after the first six years and that during this time they have not received a good education. Only 45% of all Egyptians are literate (can read and write). Those who graduate successfully may continue to prepatory (junior high) and secondary school where they have a choice of an academic or technical education and begin to study English. As the same problems exist at these levels, it is a small number that reach university level. These are the elite and are guaranteed employment on graduation. Widespread, better quality education is the goal for the future and the government is investing extensive funding in this area.

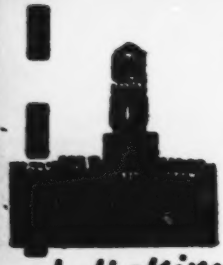
Activity - What is the importance, if any, of an academic education to a person who will spend the rest of his/her life working a small piece of land in a village?

Activity - List some problems children face in school.

Question - What is the literacy rate in Canada as compared to Egypt?

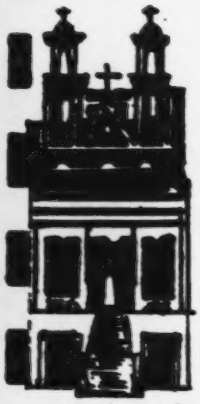
Discussion - Because of its population problem, Egypt is encouraging many of its people to emigrate (move) to other countries. However, the Egyptians who leave the country tend to be those who are well-educated. This has been referred to as 'the brain drain'. Discuss the positive and negative effects this would have on the country.





al-Hakim Mosque

Sultan Hassan Mosque



Mu'allaqah Church

Muhammad Ali Mosque

RELIGION:

Islam is the major religion in Egypt. About 93% of Egyptians are Moslems (people believing in Islam). Almost all others belong to the Coptic Church of Christianity. The Coptic denomination split from the general Christian Church in 451 A.D.

'Islam' is an Arabic word meaning 'the surrender of one's will to the will of God'. The religion was founded by Mohammed around 600 A.D. in Saudi Arabia. Next to Christianity, Islam is the most widespread religion in the world. Most people in the Middle East are Moslems.

The Koran, which is God's word given to Mohammed, is the holy book of Islam. Much of the Koran is developed from the Old and New Testaments of the Christian Bible. The Koran recognizes that the prophets of Judaism and Christianity brought messages from God, and further states that Mohammed was the last of these prophets.

The most fundamental principle of Islam is the belief in a single God, the same God worshipped by Jews and Christians. The Arabic word for 'God' is 'Allah'. According to Islam, people are born without sin and are therefore, totally responsible for all their actions. (This differs from the belief of most Christians that people are born with a sinful nature and require God's assistance, to lead a pure life.) In Islam, people's values are believed to be judged on the Day of Judgment, and the people will be rewarded or punished according to the goodness of their actions. Like the Bible, the Koran instructs people to live peacefully together, and not to begin hostilities.

One of the chief rituals of Islam is to worship and pray to Allah at five specific times each day. This helps serve as a constant reminder that God (Allah) is greater than anything on earth. Giving charity to the poor is a religious duty. Several other closely followed rituals and codes for moral behaviour are clearly defined by the Islamic religion. Many of these moral codes serve as law. Although urban life is now changing some of the religious habits, Islam remains the strong moral and social base of Egyptian life.

The mosque is the Moslem house of worship and it is also a social meeting place where people read, chat, sleep and just be together as friends.

PEOPLE:

Egyptians, on the whole, are very cheerful people. They are polite and courteous, offering food and shelter to visitors even in the poorest village according to custom. The men have a great responsibility to their families and are affectionate and caring with their children. According to their religious beliefs they are kind to their women. They have a patient and relaxed manner. They are not concerned with time in the same way as we are and a common expression is 'BUKRA' or 'tomorrow' which means - relax!

Women are protected by their families and enjoy certain freedoms under Islamic law. They do not have to be veiled or secluded, but must dress and behave quietly and conservatively. When they marry they are provided with a dowry, a house that is furnished and solid gold or solid silver jewelry of their choice. If divorced, they are supported but retain their family name and independence. Families support and depend on each other.

The people of Egypt can be divided into many groups: fellahin and urban people; Muslims and Copts (Christians); Arabs and Copts who are descendents of ancient Egyptians. These divisions are made by economic condition, religion, and race. Further there are minority groups of Bedouins (who are wandering shepherds), Nubians (who are of African descent), Turks, Levantines, and Europeans (Greeks, Italians, French, and British).

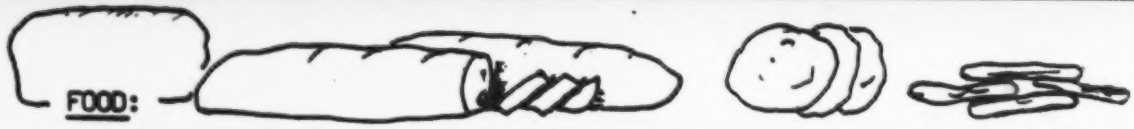
BELIEFS:

Do you cross your fingers as you walk under a ladder? All of us have our own beliefs and superstitions - the Egyptians are no exception. They believe in the spirit called the 'JINN' who lives in fire and must warn him if they wish to throw something on the fire or water on the ground. Some wear charms to protect against the evil eye or worry that they may be followed by 'AFREET', a wandering spirit. Children mark their handprints on walls to protect against spirits.

What are your beliefs and superstitions?

DRESS:

Egypt is a land of old and new even in the way that people dress. Western dress is common among the rich and middle class in the cities and is spreading slowly to the fellahin. The majority of people, however, wear traditional clothing. For the men this consists of a 'GALABIYEH': a long full-sleeved, low-necked robe made out of cotton. This is usually coloured blue, white or may be striped. For headwear, a cotton skullcap which may be wound with a white Moslem turban. Some wear a European topcoat for warmth or different types of woolen clothing. At home most men wear cotton pyjamas to relax in. Women wear conservative clothing consisting of a floor length white or black cotton dress called a 'MILEYAH' with a length of white or black cotton covering their heads called a 'TAUB'. Women are not required to cover their faces. Married women wear solid gold or solid silver jewelry, and all women wear bracelets, bangles and beads. They may darken their eyes with 'KOHL' and redden their skin with 'HENNA' for special occasions. Long hair and braids are a sign of beauty and purity.



FOOD:

Historically, the most important contribution Egyptians made to food-development was the art of bread-making. Modern cooking is cosmopolitan in nature and shows the influence of such countries as Turkey, Greece, Italy, France, and England. The fellahin eat three times a day: in their homes at dawn and dusk and in the fields at midday. Their staple food is the fava bean or 'FOOL', supplemented by bread, rice, vegetables, and fruit. Although meat eating is confined to the very rich in cities, where 3 meals a day are also eaten, and pork is forbidden under Islamic law, lamb is a very popular meat for those who an afford it. The fellahin eat pigeon, lamb, chicken or goat once a week. In Canada we can taste modern Egyptian and Middle Eastern dishes if we visit a Greek restaurant that serves such dishes as: shish kebab, moussakaaa'h, stuffed grape leaves, and baklava. In Cairo, people will go searching for the national dish of baked beans, Fool Medammes, in the same way Canadians look for hamburgers. During the month-long fast of Ramadan, Fool Medammes is eaten every night. Here is the recipe:

FOOL MEDAMMES (Broad beans or fava beans)

2 cups broad beans
6 - 7 cups boiling water
1/4 cup olive oil or
2tbsp. butter and
2 tbsp. vegetable margarine
1 tbsp. freshly squeezed lemon juice or lemon extract
1/3 - 1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper or hot paprika or tabasco

1. Sort beans, rinse few times with cold water, until water runs clear.
2. Add to boiling water in a heavy bottomed pan, and reduce to a moderately low heat; cook for about 5 - 6 hours or until tender, stir once to prevent sticking (optional); also, add water if required; when tender raise heat to evaporate some of liquid leaving about 1 inch of liquid in pan; (do not discard cooking liquid, it has most of the nutrient values);
3. Combine lemon and oil (or melted butter and margarine), salt and pepper, paprika or tabasco;
4. Serve beans in a bowl, mix with lemon oil mixture, garnish with parsley. (Serves 6 - 8*)

*SUGGESTION - Can you make a dish of fool medammes in the class using already cooked/canned beans?

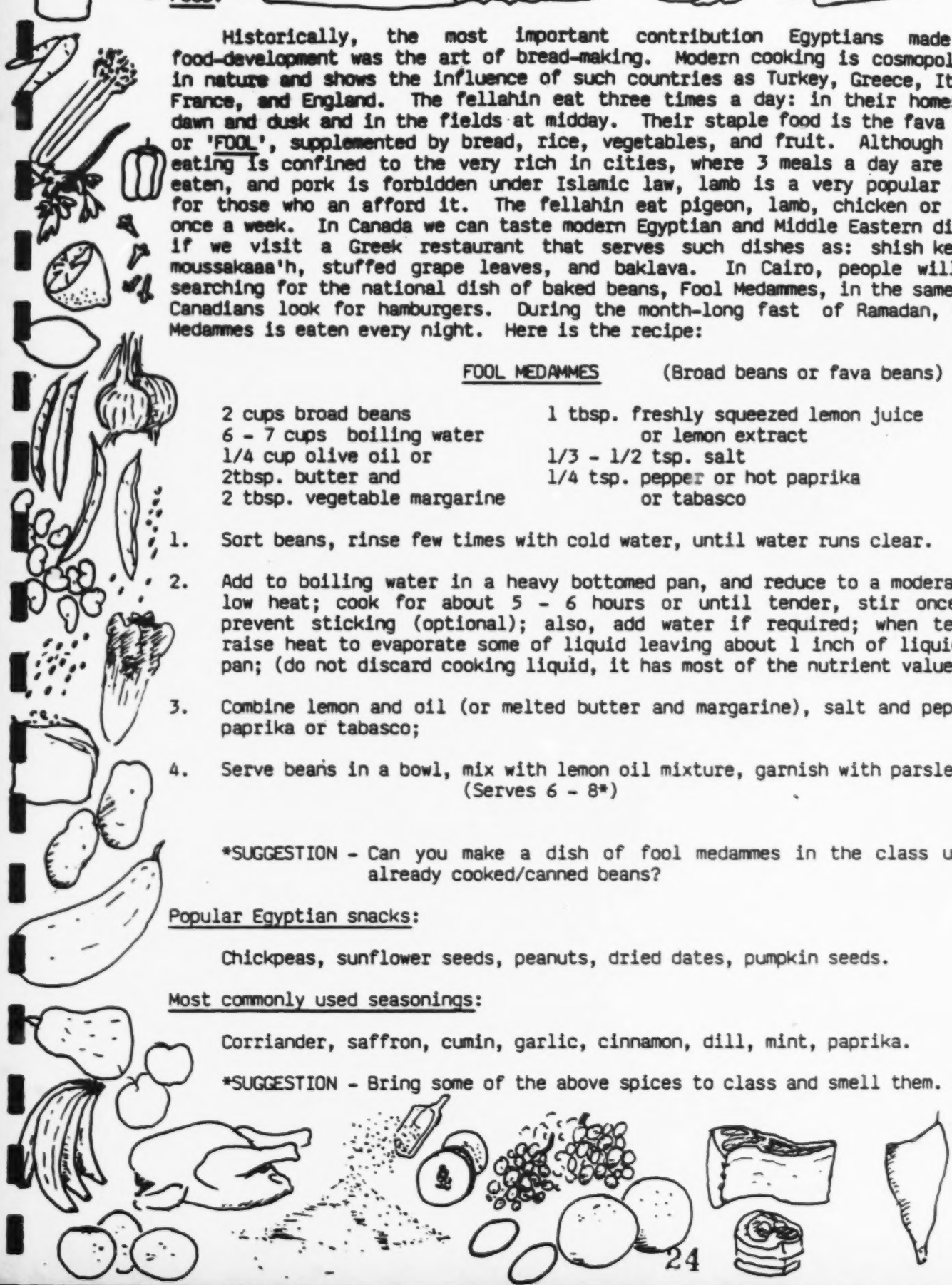
Popular Egyptian snacks:

Chickpeas, sunflower seeds, peanuts, dried dates, pumpkin seeds.

Most commonly used seasonings:

Corriander, saffron, cumin, garlic, cinnamon, dill, mint, paprika.

*SUGGESTION - Bring some of the above spices to class and smell them.



LITERATURE

The Egyptians have a great love of story-telling. Stories are a form of relaxation and entertainment, and for some a profession. The night before public festivals, the owner of a coffee house will often hire a professional story-teller known as 'the poet' who will tell stories that have been handed down in this way from person to person for centuries. You may be familiar with 'Alladin' or 'Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves' which are part of a collection of stories called "The Arabian Nights". A third of these stories originated in Egypt and nearly all of them are Egyptian in character as they have been retold by 'the poet' and Egyptian families. The following is an example of a typical folktale:

There's Always a Means

Goha was once travelling in the desert when he came upon a bedouin sitting at the foot of a palm tree. Before the man was spread a rather colourful meal. There was a cold leg of mutton nestled nicely in the midst of a heap of salted biscuits. Next to that there was some cheese, some dry dates and some nuts.

Goha was the first to offer greetings. "Salaam," he called out.

The bedouin greeted Goha in return, but instead of extending the customary invitation to join him in a bite, the man just said, "Where from?"

"From your region and one of your tribe," answered Goha.

"My good luck!" exclaimed the man. "Do you have any news of my son Suleiman?"

"Of course, God bless you," said Goha. "He's the flower of children, and the cause of joy and merriment to the whole neighbourhood. Running and jumping all day long, that one is."

"And how is the mother of Suleiman?"

"She is like the moon when full, the example of modesty and the subject of respect to everyone."

"And my dog Morgan? How is he?"

"Ever barking. With that dog around one can leave anything anywhere and be sure that no thief will come near. Militant Morgan, that's what we call him."

"And Speedy? My camel, Speedy, how is he?"

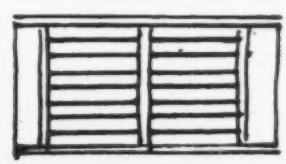
"The beauty of beauties. He's eaten so much that he's grown another hump!"

"And the good old house? It's still in fine shape?"

"As fine as ever. It's a regular haven of shade for passing travellers on hot hot days."

Now the sly obliging Goha most certainly expected an invitation after all these tasty tidbits of news. But no, the man just went right on eating. He simply forgot that Goha was standing but a few yards away. Though it would be a wonder how even a deaf man could forget, considering the great rumbling growls that were issuing from Goha's famous stomach. Goha next tried clearing his throat and yawning quite audibly several times in hopes of drawing the man's attention. But that was useless.

A skinny mangy mongrel chanced to amble slowly by. It seemed the dog too had designs on that tempting mutton leg, as he approached the bedouin hesitantly, wagging a half-hopeful tail.



Folk Pottery Designs

The man looked up and all at once laughed coarsely--it sounded like a donkey's bray. He said, "There's a mighty big difference between this miserable thing here and my dog Morgan!"

Goha replied, "It goes without saying that your dog was healthier and better looking and . . . "

"What do you mean, 'was'? Is he dead? Is my beloved dog dead?"

"Unfortunately, yes. He choked while chewing on one of the remains from your camel, Speedy."

"What? don't tell me! Speedy has popped off too?"

"Yes, he broke both front legs and never got up again."

"But how?" cried the man.

"He was running when he stumbled on the grave of Suleiman's mother."

"What do I hear? Then my dear wife has died too?"

"Yes I am sorry to say, after the weeks of grief over the late little Suleiman."

At this the man began tearing at his beard and banging his head with his fists. He hardly had the voice to say, "My son, Suleiman, is dead?"

"Yes, terrible as it is to tell, the house fell down and the poor boy was brought out in pieces from under the ruins."

This time the man did not say a thing. He just ran berserk off into the desert, waving his arms and crying and raving like a madman.

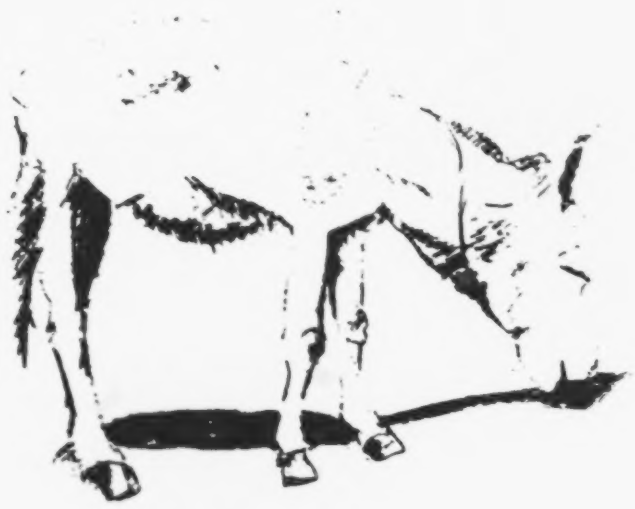
Sitting comfortably down to the meal the man had just left, Goha could hear the cries growing fainter and fainter in the distance. "Calamity of calamities! Oh misery and woe!"

As he sat peacefully with the dog by his side, Goha could not help but say to himself, "I might have been sitting and eating a long time ago if this man believed in goodness and sharing. There is certainly enough for two persons here, and even a crumb or two for the dog. But he was a mean man. So to a mean man meanness is the means."

RIDDLE

Q: You eat something that you neither plant or plough: It is the son of water, but if water touches it dies.

A: SALT



Two forms of ancient language.

LANGUAGE:

The main language of Egypt is Arabic. The Arabic alphabet is composed of twenty-nine letters and is written from right to left.

ا ب ت ث ج ح خ د ذ

Th D Kh H G Th T B A

ر ز س ش ص ض ط ظ ع

AA Z T D S Sh S Z R

غ ف ق ك ل م ن ه و

W H N M L K K F Gh

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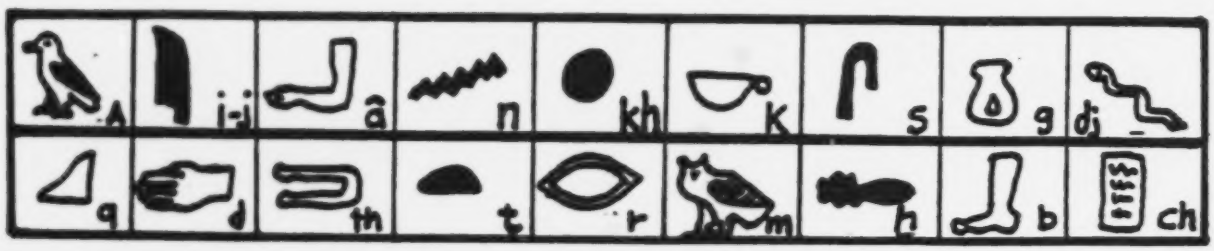
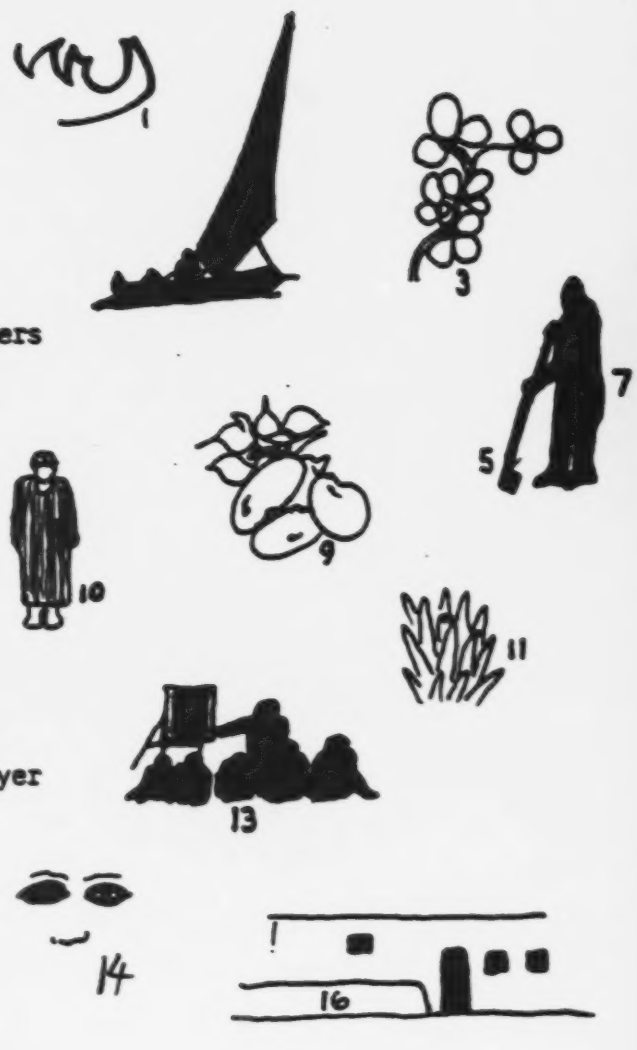


DICTIONARY (of words you have learned in this unit):

1. ALLAH - God
2. AFREET - a wandering spirit
3. BERSEEM - Egyptian clover
4. FALUCCA - flat-bottomed sailboat
5. FASS - hoe (both noun and verb)
6. FEDDAN - approximately an acre of land
7. FELLAH - Egyptian farmer
8. FELLAHIN - plural of fellah; Egyptian farmers
9. FOOL - the fava bean, a staple food
10. GALABIYEH - traditional dress worn by men
11. HENNA - a reddish cosmetic
12. JINN - a spirit that lives in fire
13. KUTTAB - a village school
14. KOHL - black eye makeup
15. MAKTAF - a wicker basket for carrying
16. MASTABA - a bench
17. MILEYAH - traditional dress worn by women
18. MUEZZIN - a priest who calls people to prayer
19. OMDAH - the village headman
20. SAKIA - a waterwheel
21. SHADOOF - a machine for lifting water
22. TANBOUR - Archimedean screw
23. TAUB - traditional headwear for women



Common expressions and greetings:

BUKRA - tomorrow (in other words - relax!)

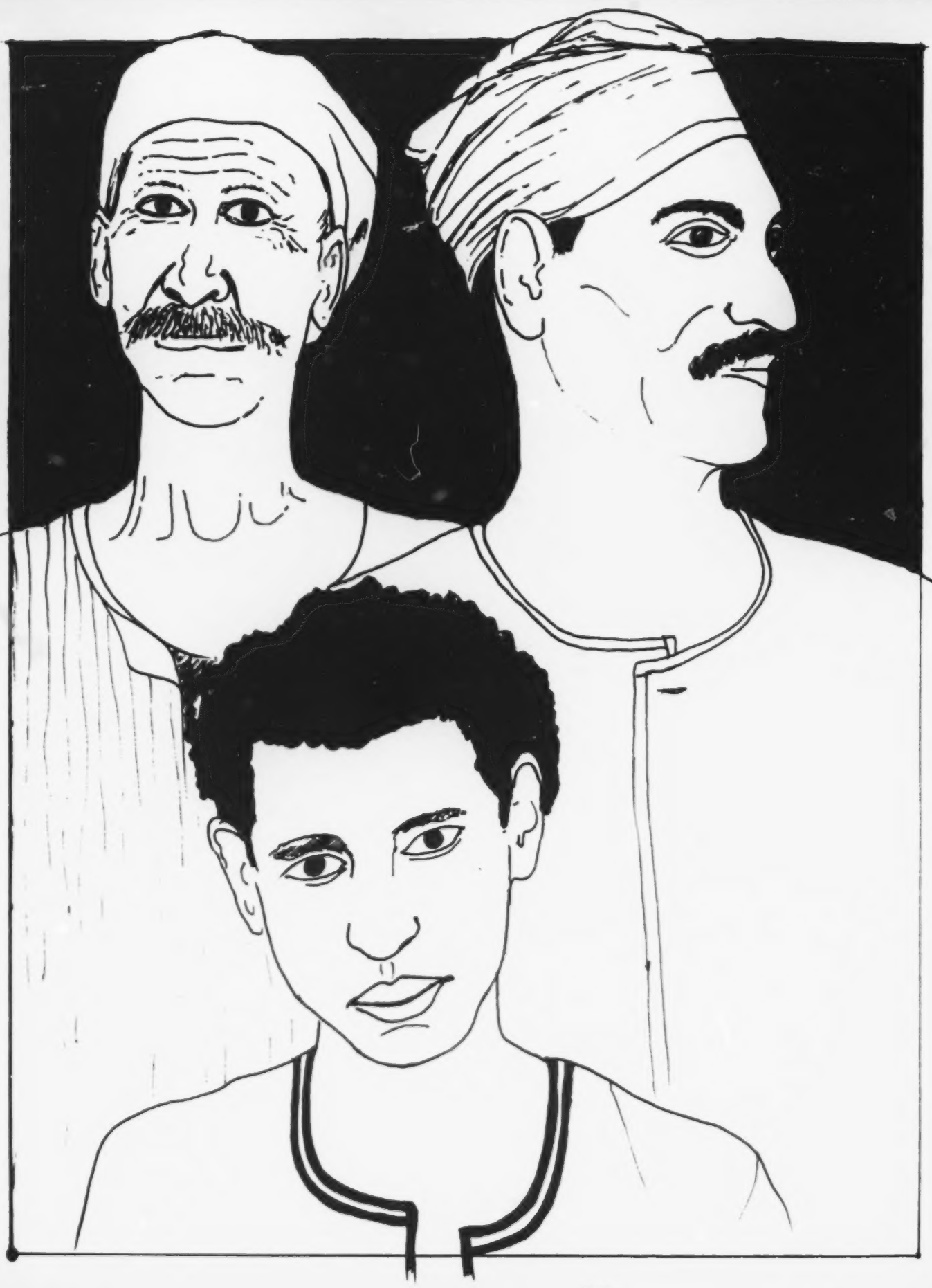
A woman is often called 'Mother of ____'
e.g. Om-Ali = Mother of Ali

SALAAM - Hello

SALAMO ALAIKOM - Hello. Peace be with you

SAIDA - Goodbye

MISR - Egypt is commonly called 'MISR'



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RESOURCES

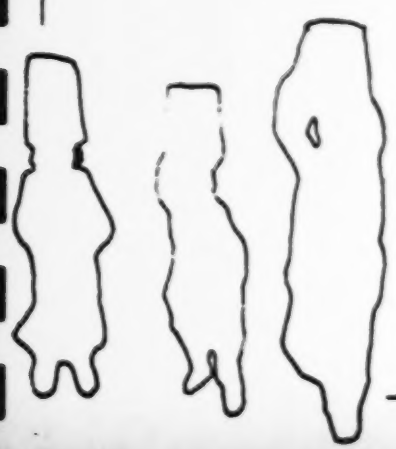
1. Egypt - Sabha discovers the Past 1967
(Video)

2. Egyptian Villagers 6mm 14 minutes
Visual Education Centre, Toronto 1969

3. Egypt - Land of the Nile 17 minutes (film)

STUDENT ACTIVITY **NAME:** _____

Make a list of village occupations and define what kind of work each involves.

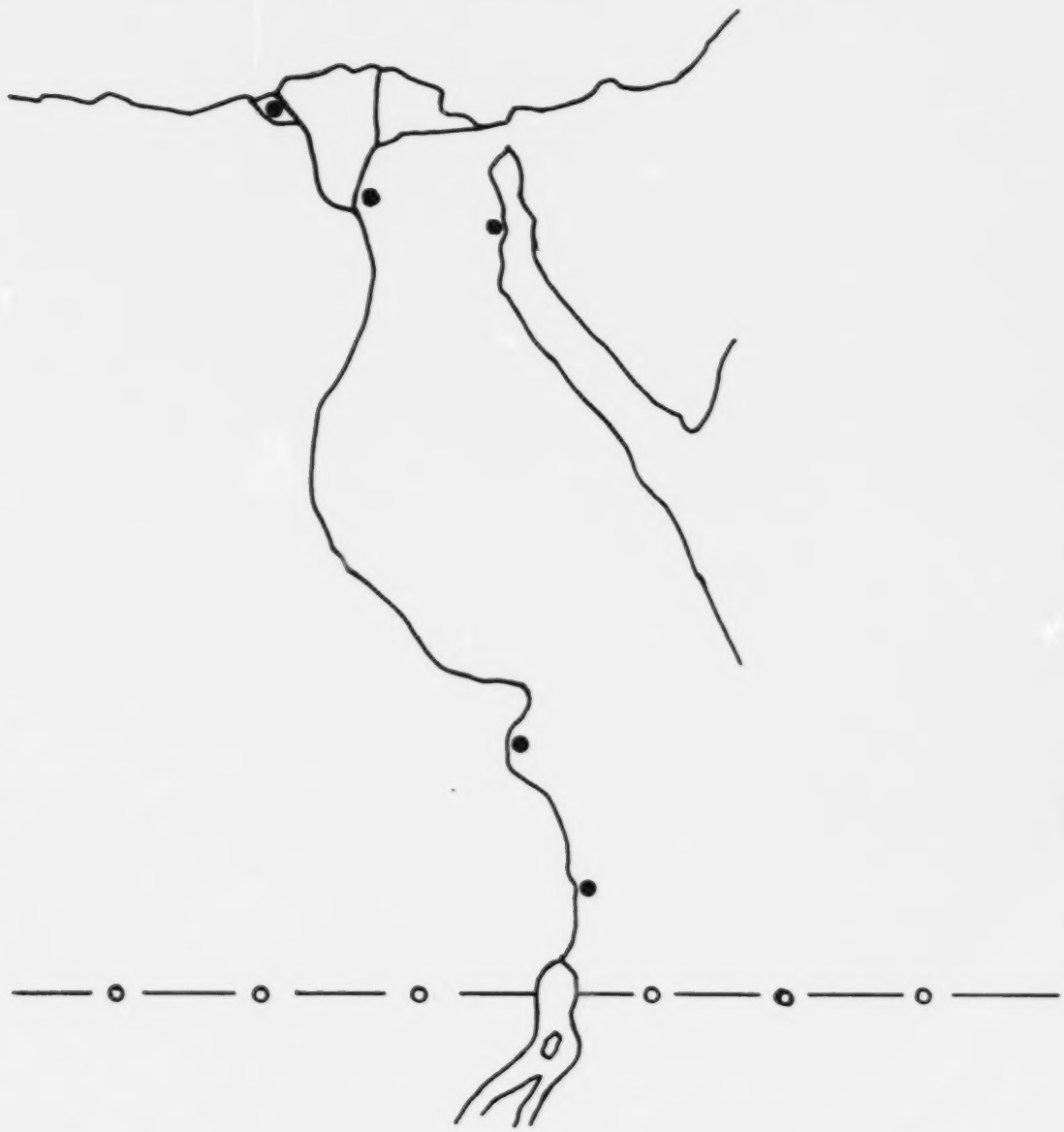


STUDENT ACTIVITY **NAME:** _____

Make a chart listing the tools used by the fellahin. Show which tools would be used for the main summer and winter crops.

STUDENT ACTIVITY **NAME:** _____

On the map below label the following: Alexandria, Cairo, Suez, Luxor, Aswan, the Tropic of Cancer, the Red Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Libyan Desert. Give the map a title and compass markings.

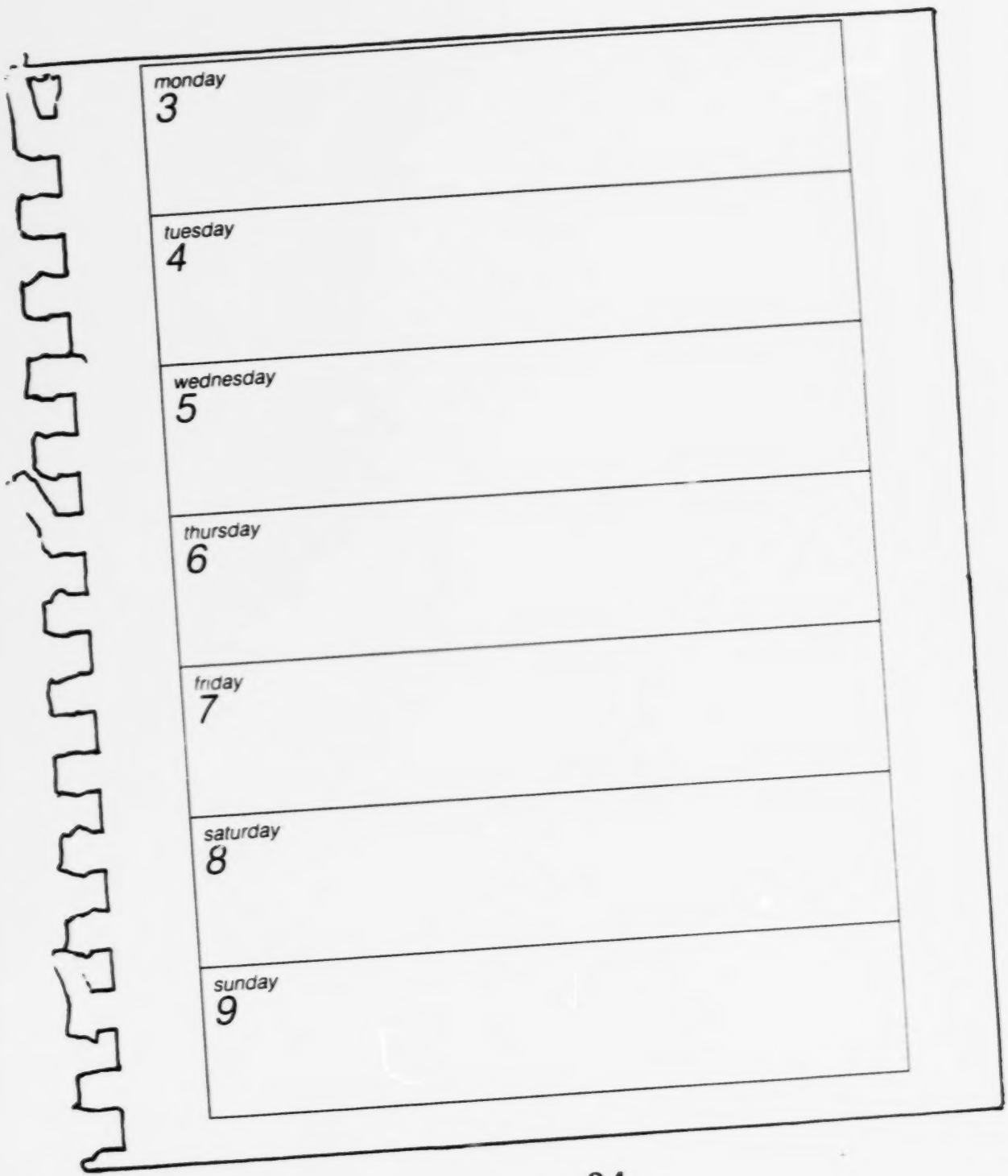


STUDENT ACTIVITY **NAME:** _____

Make a chart listing the different farming processes, e.g. threshing, ploughing. Define each process.

STUDENT ACTIVITY **NAME:** _____

Imagine you are an Egyptian child living in a village on the banks of the Nile. Write a page in this child's diary in the box below.



STUDENT ACTIVITY **NAME:** _____

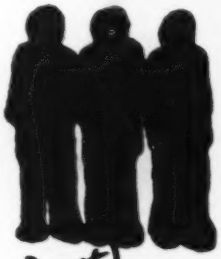
In the outline map below draw in Egypt and the river Nile from its source.

STUDENT ACTIVITY **NAME:** _____

In the box below make a travel poster describing the unique attractions of modern Egypt.

The Structure of Government

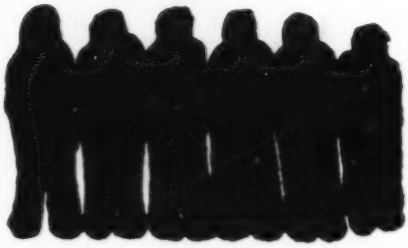
Egypt's Flag



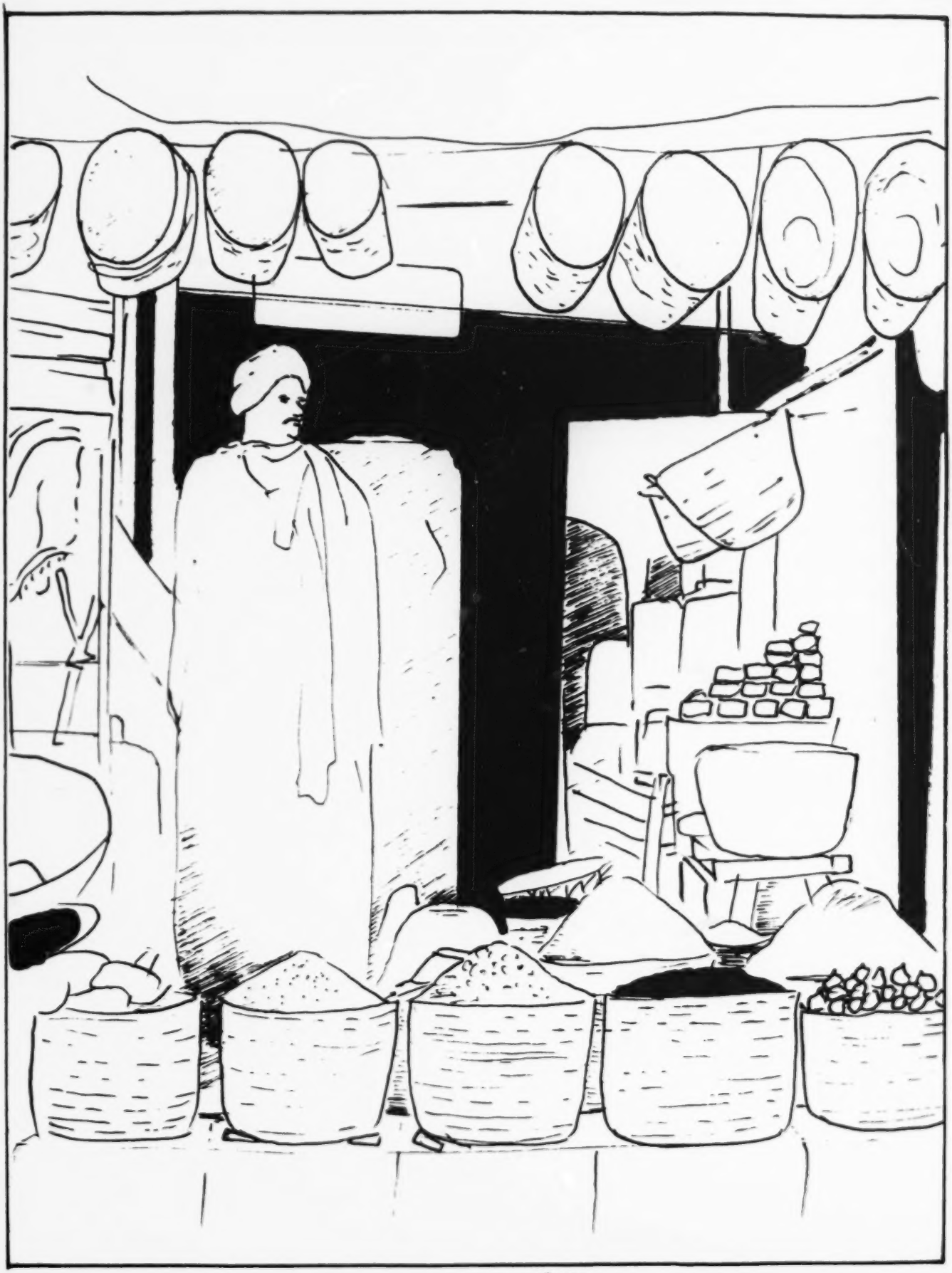
Council of Ministers (appointed by President)

President (nominated by People's assembly)

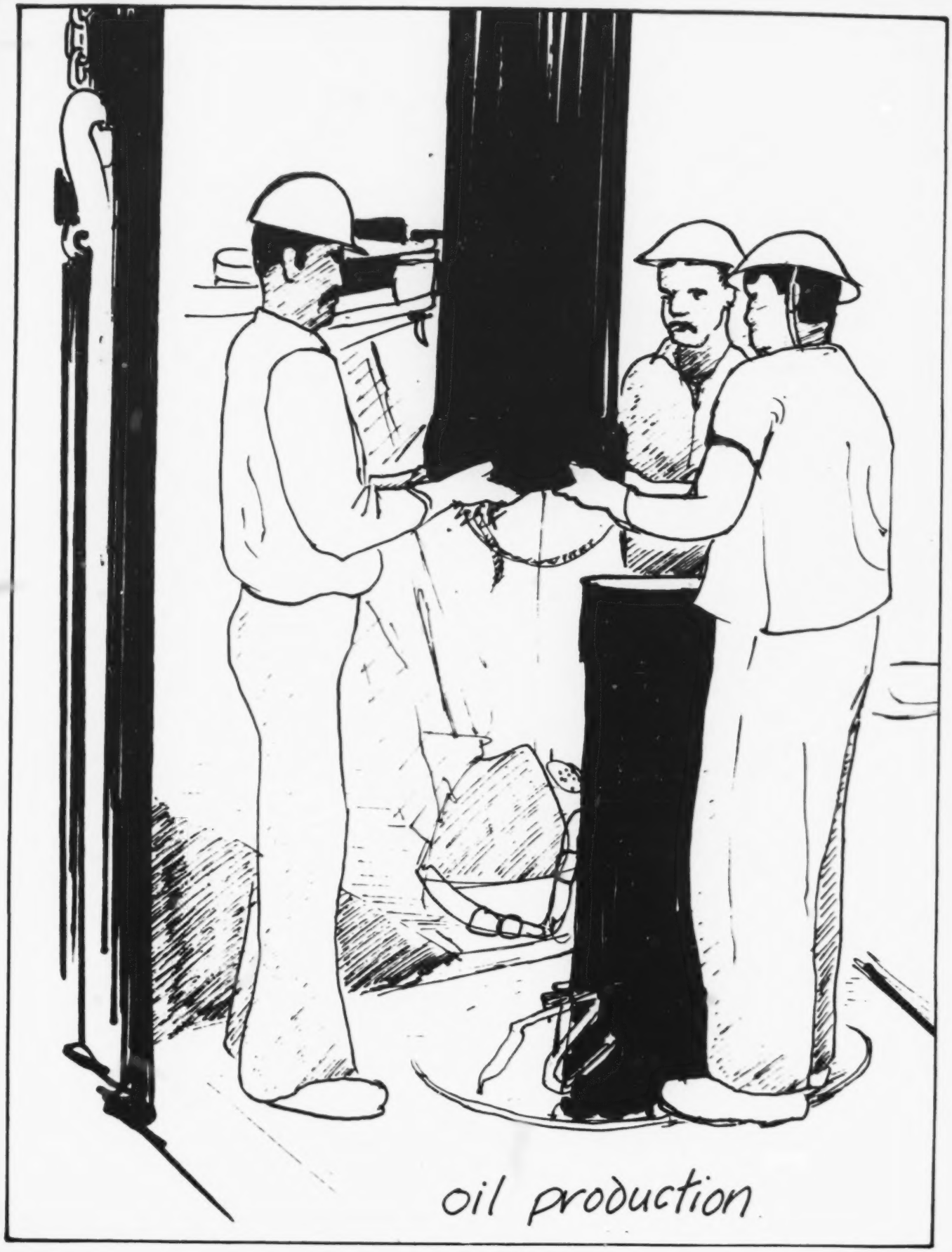
People's Assembly (360 seats)

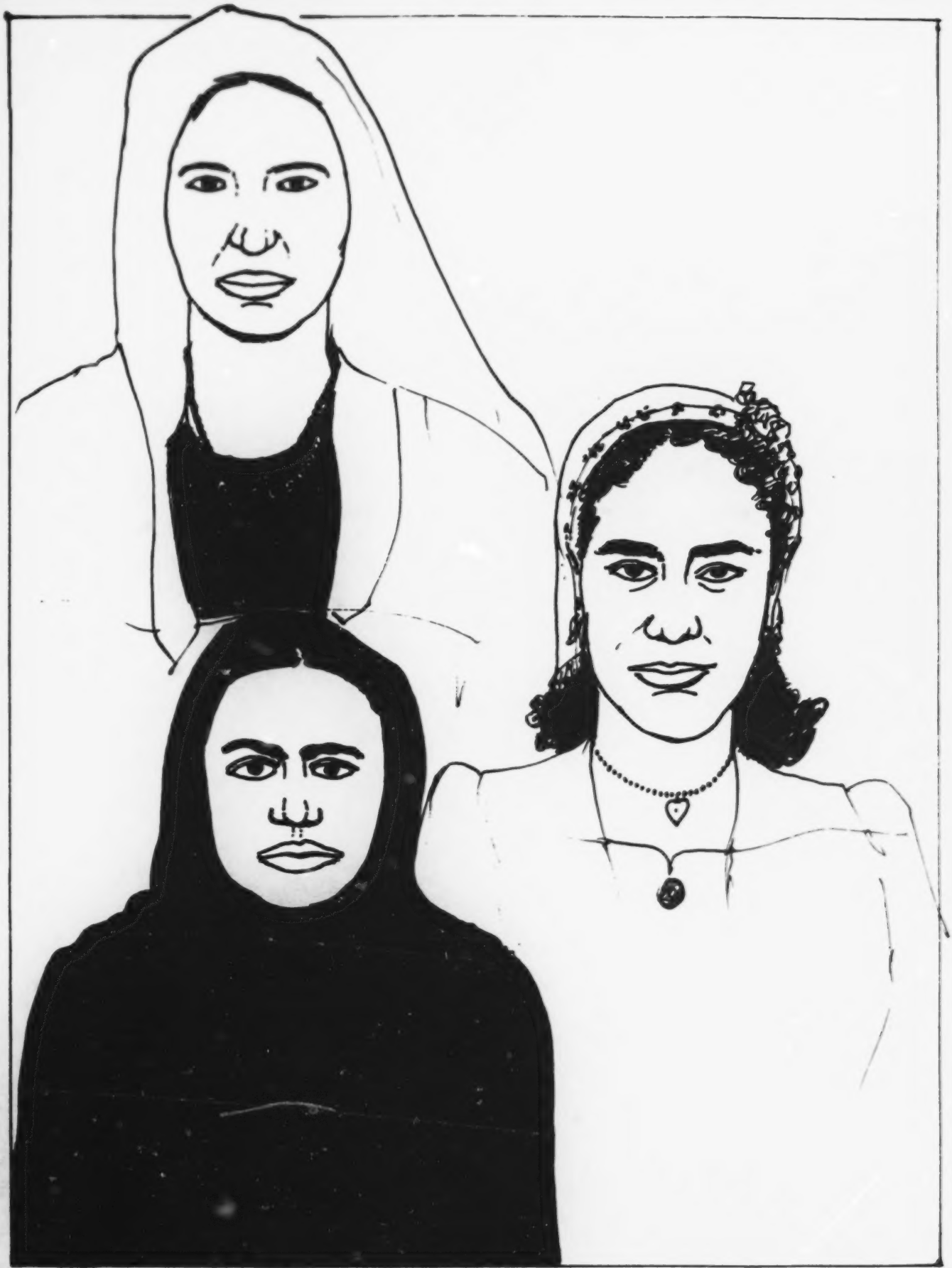


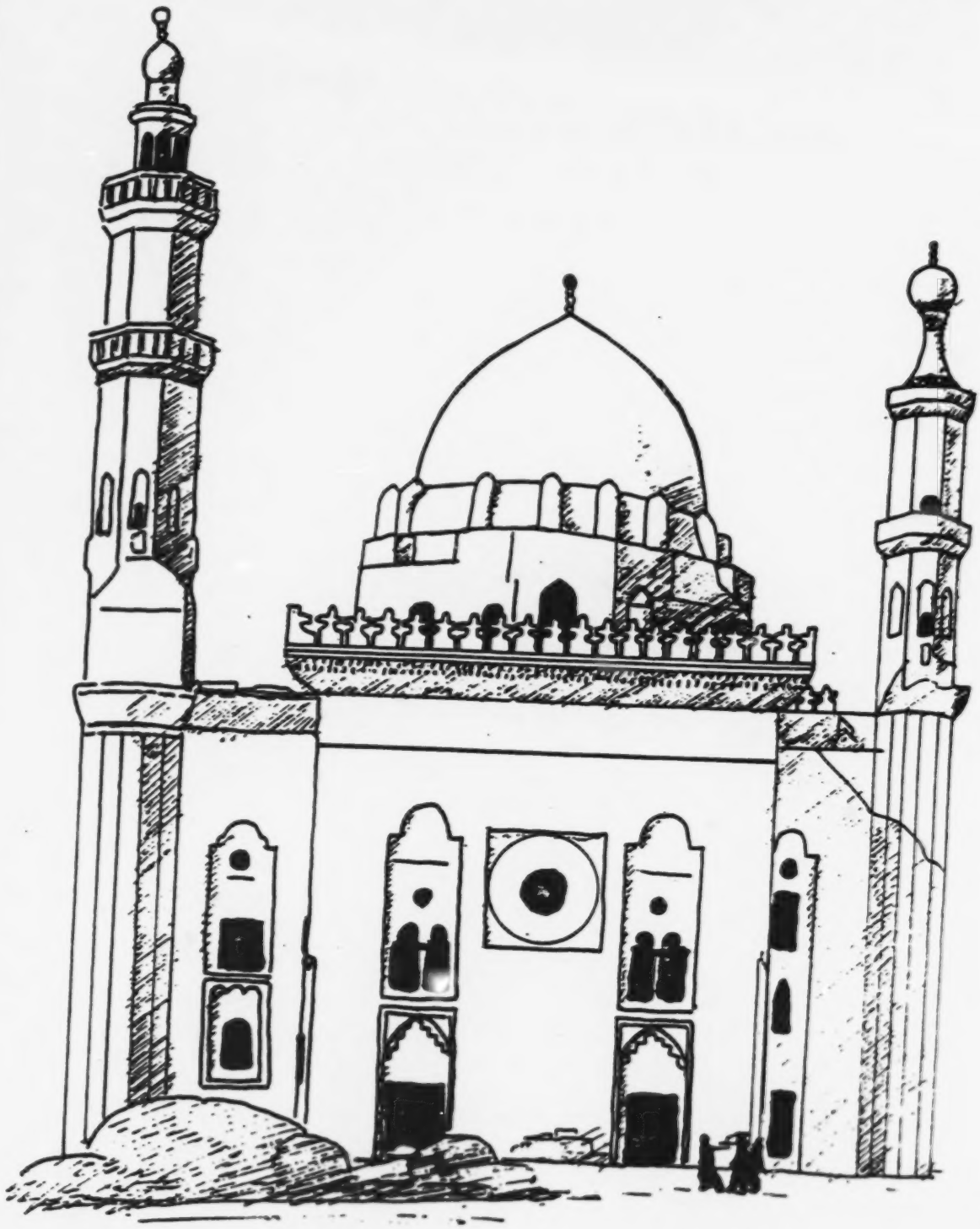
Electorate (elections are held every 5 years)



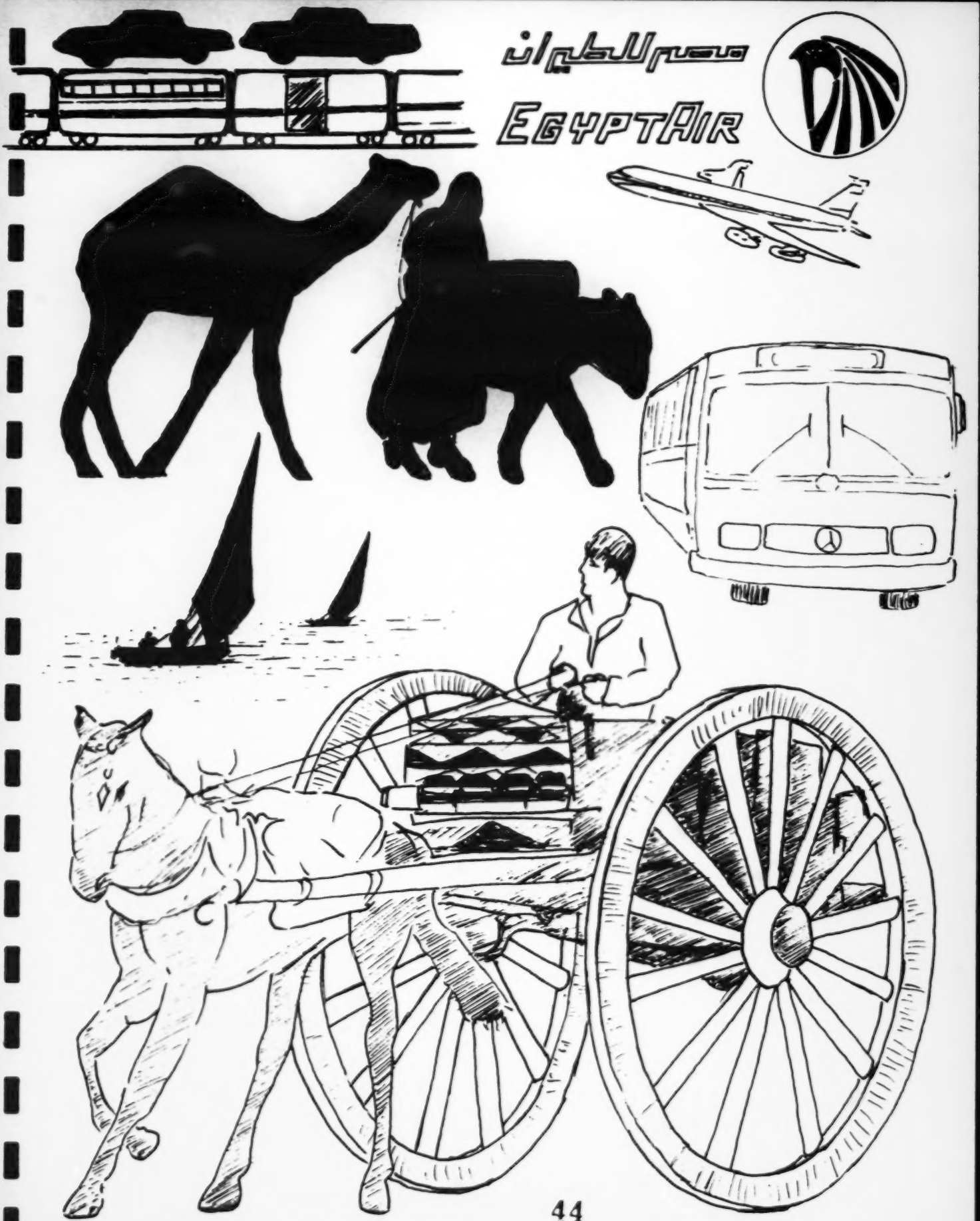
Gamel
Abdul
Nasser
Anwar
Sadat
Hosni
Mubarak

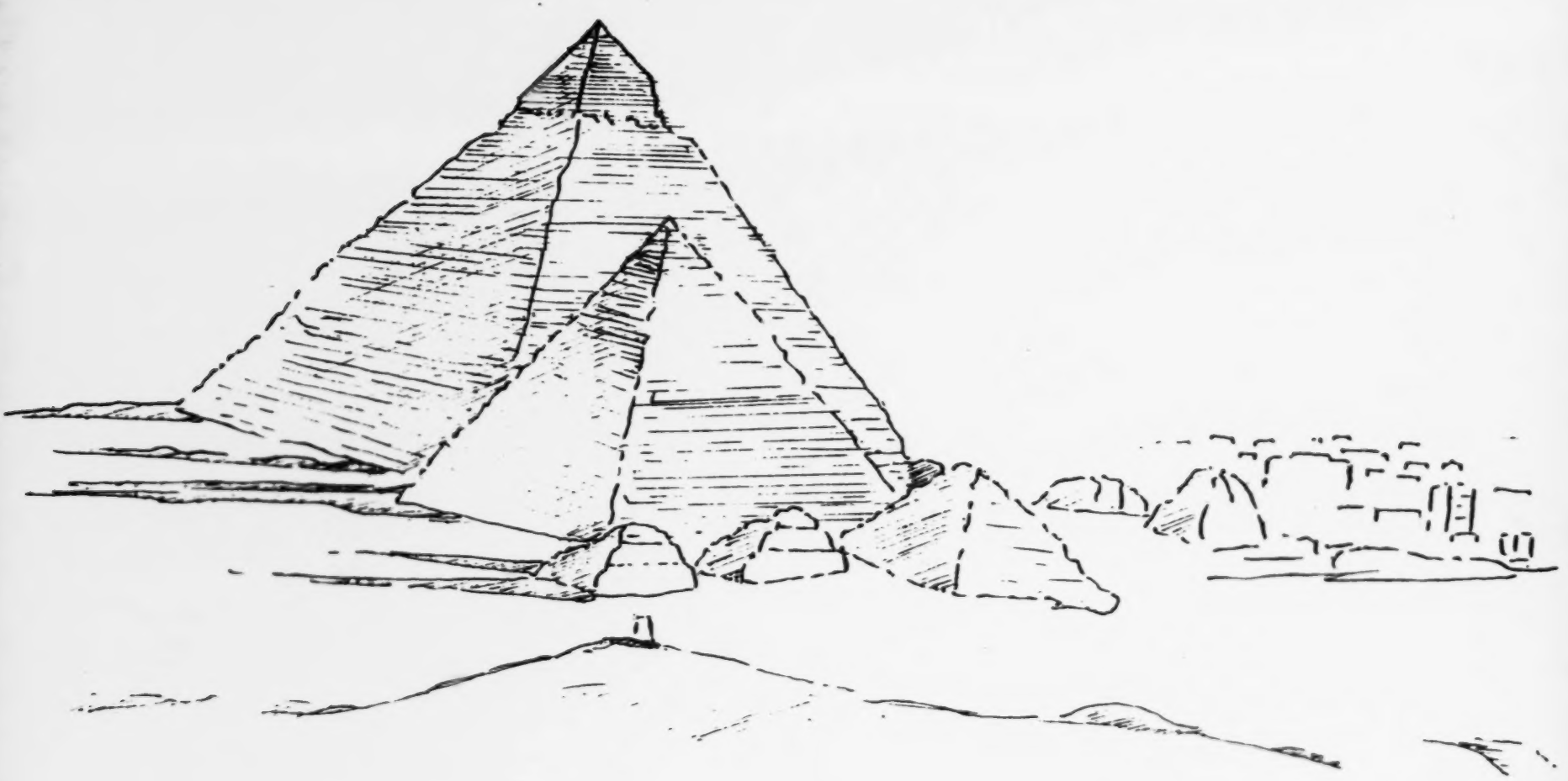

oil production





The Mosque of Sultan Hassan : Cairo


مصر للطيران
EGYPTAIR



Slide-Tape Script

SLIDE 1 When we think of Egypt, scenes of the ancient pyramids

SLIDE 2 and perhaps the Sphinx come to mind. But Egypt is much more than its famous antiquities.

SLIDE 3 Situated in the north-east corner of Africa, Egypt has been called "The Gift of the Nile". It lies at the crossroads of Europe, Africa and the Middle-East. Lets's take a trip up the Nile and discover modern Egypt. Our route is marked on the map.

SLIDE 4 Our journey begins at the Mediterranean Sea. Alexandria lies to the west of the Nile delta, strung along the shores of the Mediterranean. It is Egypt's major harbour, its second largest city and a major tourist attraction.

SLIDE 5 This is a typical street in the old quarter. Alexandria is an ancient city founded by Alexander The Great 300 years before Christ. Even a thousand years ago it was the major doorway to Egypt.

SLIDE 6 From Alexandria we travel through the heart of the Nile delta where about two-thirds of Egypt's people live. Every available piece of land is irrigated. Here we see the landscape of rich green fields of cotton, maize and beerseem a type of clover grown to feed the animals.

SLIDE 7 After a journey of one hundred and fifty kilometres to the south we reach Giza, a quiet place in the heart of the desert. Over all 95% of Egypt's area is covered with desert much like this.

SLIDE 8 Egypt's arid regions are the home of the Bedouin people who are nomads wandering from place to place as they and their ancestors have done for centuries. Recent government efforts to encourage the Bedouin to settle in one place have not been very successful.

SLIDE 9 Camels are the main means of transport for the Bedouin. This is a camel parking lot where the caravan animals can rest for a while. The holes in the ground are for men and camels to crouch in to protect themselves from the wind and intense sun.

SLIDE 10 Crossing the desert sands the tribesmen trust the camels with their lives. Some consider them as important as members of their family, calling each by name.

SLIDE 11 Giza is the home of Egypt's most famous pyramids, only a few minutes drive along a busy highway from Cairo.

SLIDE 12 Cairo, the captial of Egypt, is known by many of its people as "Cairo, Mother of the World". This is the largest city in Africa, and one of the largest in the world, with a population of ten million people.

SLIDE 13 In the heart of Cairo is Liberation Square. Getting from place to place in this huge city can be difficult. Large walkways have been built for pedestrians so they don't interfere with the traffic. The city's bus service is inexpensive and it is very overcrowded. The buses carry more than three million passengers a day.

SLIDE 14 Cairo's traffic has increased four-fold in the last ten years and the city's streets were not built to cope with these numbers. It can take an hour or more to drive perhaps a kilometer in the city center. Drivers continually honk their horns and rev their engines. As well the air is filled with exhaust fumes and desert dust.

SLIDE 15 In Cairo you can move from one century to the next simply by crossing a road and entering a different district. This is an area of Bazaars, narrow streets and roofed alley-ways. This man is wearing a 'gellabiah' traditional Egyptian dress.

SLIDE 16 Markets in Egypt are called souks. Most are busy places with the loud sounds of bargaining. Everything is sold in the souks from gold and precious stones to plastic sandels and food. The souks have not changed much since the days when camel caravans brought goods from Damascus and Kartoum.

SLIDE 17 The city's population is rising at an alarming rate. This is partly because it has one of the highest birth rates in the world and also because the farmers, called 'fellahein' in Egypt are moving into the city at an increasing rate. They are anxious to get jobs in the city's steel and iron works, chemical plants and textile factories.

SLIDE 18 Unemployment is amajor problem here so people create their own jobs and businesses whenever they can. Food vendors are very common on city streets.

SLIDE 19 Street garages run by young mechanics help provide employment as well as to keep outdated vehicles on the road.

SLIDE 20 Thousands of acres of rich agricultural land have been swallowed up by the building of housing developments to provide apartments for the city's exploding population. These apartments would be occupied mainly by middle class workers.

SLIDE 21 Many of the thousands of homeless Egyptians have been forced to build temporary homes on the rooftops of existing buildings.

SLIDE 22 Most of the people in Egypt are Moslems who worship at a mosque. There are about 250 mosques in Cairo. Before entering one of them, Moslems are expected to wash their faces, hands and feet. Nobody wears shoes inside a mosque unless they are covered with canvass slippers.

SLIDE 23 At the American University in Cairo, students come from many countries to study. Cairo is the home of one of the oldest schools in the world - the Al-Azhar University, which is more than one thousand years old.

SLIDE 24 This man teaches English at the university. Even though the official language of Egypt is Arabic, many of the lectures at the university, especially in sciences, are now taught in English. This means students can use up-to-date textbooks which are not available in Arabic.

SLIDE 25 Let us leave Cairo to travel south into upper Egypt. If we go by boat up the Nile we will have a good view of the villages and archeological sites.

SLIDE 26 Mohamned is the captain of our falluca, which is a flat bottomed sailing boat.

SLIDE 27 These men are passengers on the boat. They are on their way up the Nile to visit their families in their home villages.

SLIDE 28 Villages on the banks of the Nile have not changed in appearance for thousands of years.

SLIDE 29 Most of the homes in Egypt's four thousand villages are two or three room dwellings made of mud bricks. The furnishings are usually benches, a low table and an oven. Most village families own their own homes but few have electricity, running water or drains.

SLIDE 30 In the past the women fetched water from the river in the evenings. Now this isn't necessary as most villages have a central water tap. But washdays still provide an opportunity for families to meet and socialize at the rivers edge while doing the laundry.

SLIDE 31 Irrigation canals bring water from the Nile to the farms. Stagnant water, which collects in these canals, is the breeding ground for mosquitoes which transmit the disease, malaria. Snails also live here. They can pass on an energy-sapping sickness called Bilharzia .

SLIDE 32 Much of the farmer's time is spent irrigating his land. Since there is practically no rain here, crops depend entirely on irrigation. Shown here is a type of water wheel, which is turned by a buffalo plodding around. One animal can irrigate five acres a day.

SLIDE 33 These village children are looking after the sheep. All children help their families with the farm work, even if it means missing school.

SLIDE 34 Life is not all work though. Children love to play games, tell stories and visit their friends.

SLIDE 35 In the southern villages, when the women go out, many wear a garment called a 'mylaya', a hooded black robe which falls in folds about the body. But at home a colourful dress is most popular.

SLIDE 36 Back on the falucca we continue our journey up the Nile.

SLIDE 37 Large numbers of tourists travel to Egypt each year to marvel at the works of art the ancient Egyptians created along the river. About 500 kilometers south of Cairo is the Valley of the Kings.

SLIDE 38 Three thousand years ago the young pharaoh Tutankham was buried here in the valley. The discovery of his tomb by an Englishman in 1922 threw a new light on life in ancient Egypt.

SLIDE 39 This is one of the famous works of art found in the ancient tomb. It is made of solid gold.

SLIDE 40 Here are some of the other perfectly preserved treasures found in the tomb.

SLIDE 41 (Art treasures)

SLIDE 42 Across the river is the city of Luxor. Sidewalk cafes along the main street of the city provide citizens with a pleasant place to conduct business over coffee or to just relax.

SLIDE 43 We move on upstream to Aswan. This is on the north side of the dam. Completed in 1971, the dam has greatly increased Egypt's agricultural and electricity production.

SLIDE 44 When the Aswan High Dam was built, it backed up the waters of the Nile to create Lake Nasser, which now extends hundreds of miles to the south.

SLIDE 45 This is Abu Simbel, the great temple of Ramesses 11. When the high dam was built, floodwaters threatened to engulf this famous historical site. Money poured in from all over the world to save the figures. Each section of the carving was sawn by hand, lifted and rebuilt higher up the hillside.

SLIDE 46 The famous project at Abu Simbel has shown us that with international cooperation, skill and hard work, even mountains can be moved. It is perhaps with this spirit that Egypt will progress with its development.

SLIDE 47 Credit Slide.

SLIDE 48 Credit Slide.